July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
Re: Ophan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am a professional artist and graphic designer with over 25 years experience. I am against an Orphan Works Act because of it's unfairness to the creator. It allows anyone to take whatever they find on the Internet and call it theirs with a few derivations in Photoshop and then copyright it themselves.

We need to protect the people that are enriching our culture and not make things harder for them. Over my career, I have created have thousands of artworks and designs and if I had to register all of them, it would be a full-time job in itself as well as a lot of money.

The Act calls for a "good faith diligent search". How are you going to prove that that was done after someone deliberately steals someone's work?

I put a watermark on most of my work on the Internet. I believe that should be enough to say that I created it. And also having an original digital file with the date created on it.

Please do not make things harder on the part of the artist. The Internet should not be a free-for-all where people who have spent their time creating are left with nothing.

Sincerely,
Virginia A. Gaura