

Brickman-Robin-20050323190002

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/23/2005

From: Robin Brickman

Comment:

I am self-employed and depend on the protection of my re-use rights for income. I have been a freelance illustrator since 1976. Over the years I have been able to stay in business precisely because of the current copyright protection now in force. Recently, the use of web-based searches has made finding a copyright owner, such as myself, very easy. I have had several such contacts in the past two years, even though the original works were freelance and the correspondence tenuous. My illustration works are my only legacy. Please do not change the copyright laws under the assumption that "orphan works" are somehow keeping people from engaging in creative effort. On the contrary, I fear that the changes in the law, as proposed by the Copyright Office will be devastating to me and my livelihood.