Dear Copyright Office,
I am a commercial graphic and fine artist with over 40 years of experience.

I wish to voice my objection to the new proposed copyright law: Orphan Works and Mass Digitization (77FR64555). This new copyright law, as I have read it and understand it, would obliterate my rights over my own work (visual images and structures) and allow others to use them without my permission, due compensation to me, or terms of use.

Copyright law is not an abstract issue to be modified into pablum due to the inability to construct a new legal platform that can encompass the momentous task of crafting protections that preserve creative thinking and property now and into the future of the digital age. It takes some creative and legal thinking to prepare for that future and it is well worth the effort.

Copyright law and its protections are the basis on which creative business rests. Our copyrights (as artists) are the products we license. Infringing on our work is like stealing our assets and right to thrive.

It is important to visual artists that they be able to determine voluntarily how, when and by whom their work is used.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. Instead everything created becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. No one, but the artist, should have the right to use an image of an artist's creations, or be allowed to reproduce the artwork, without due consent from the artist, or to use the artwork image without an acceptable agreed upon monetary compensation for it's use and reproduction. It would be devastating to artists if copyright protections to artwork and images were compromised by this new law as it stands.

Please don't take that away in drafting the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization (77FR64555). Amend it with responsible eyes toward the future and with the preservation of creative thought, human culture and history at the core. In history we have seen compromises of law that have created horrible atrocities. Let that knowledge inform your construction of future copyright laws. It is a tough job...but it can be done.

Sincerely,

Kim Laurel
Chicago, Illinois
U.S.A.