Copyright Office
July 21, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to the possible changes to come regarding the visual arts in the current Copyright law. As an artist who has been making art and sharing it online for over 10 years, I am deeply disturbed by some of the implications of the new law as I understand it. For all of my adult life, I have been a hobbyist painter and artist. Within the last few months, I have decided to start a business as a freelance commission oil painter. In putting together my website, I share not only paintings but digital sketches and drawings that serve to advertise my own work online. While I currently live in Europe, I am an American citizen and the use of Internet could extend my client base to the U.S.

With all the challenges of starting a new business, establishing clients, and working out the legality of selling my work, I would be particularly affected by this new law if I chose to return to the United States.

Specifically, if the public would have a right to use artists' "orphaned works" freely, this would **greatly endanger** my new business as a commission artist. Everything I create, from sketches to drawings to the photographs of my completed paintings, is part of my business inventory. If someone would have the rights to my images without my knowledge or my consent, it would be no different to me than having my inventory stolen from me. In the digital era, where stealing creative work is easier than ever for big businesses as well as for individuals to use for their own gain, this is more important than ever.

For the sake of the *creator's* creative freedom, I urge you to consider how this law would **negatively affect** artist-entrepreneurs by placing their businesses in precarity before the process of creation has even begun.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Shelton