To the Copyrights Office

re: Orphan Works Proposal

It is important to me, a visual artist, to continue to have sole ownership and automatic copyright of my work.
I have been a professional artist for 23 years, painting in watercolor. My work can be found in the offices and homes of many people including Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, Joseph Biden, Ron Wyden, Dianne Feinstein, Colin Powell, and Depak Chopra among many, many others.

My work has been in numerous solo and group shows. It has received many awards, the most important to me being a congressional medal from the Chilean Congress for a large painting, *The BioBio,* hanging in their congressional building.

I depend on my website as well as announcements and advertising in various publications to publicize my work. Copyright law is a basis for my business. It is not simply an abstract legal issue. Allowing others free access to my work, which is my livelihood is not acceptable.

Publication of artwork is an important way artists become known and increases the value of our work. If by publishing an image we lose out rights to it, then we have essentially lost that image, anyone can use it so that it loses its value, becomes free. But I am dependent on selling my art, my images.

Please maintain copyright laws that give visual artists automatic copyright and sole ownership of their work.

Thank you very much,
Winnie Givot, Artist