July 23, 2015

To: The Copyright Office

From: Bette L. Lawler

Regarding: Orphan Works Act

As a visual artist, I am outraged that the U.S. Copyright Office would even consider eliminating the ownership rights of artists. Just because someone has difficulty locating identifying the owner of a work of art does not justify this action. To cure one dilemma a new one is created. It opens up a flood gate allowing the unscrupulous to benefit from an artist hard work and original ideas. U.S. artist have enough difficulty making a living doing their art work. This act would make it impossible by taking away his right to safely reproduce or show his/her works. Under the current copyright law an artist can feel relatively safe exhibiting work but with the new act how safe will it be if someone can come and take a picture then use it for their personal gain not the artist.

This act is also a clear effort on the part of the government to obtain more revenue. The fee for copyrighting a work of art has risen considerable and struggling artists do not have the revenue that allows for registration of all their works. It is not financially practical to have to register your art work

To safe guard artist's creative rights this new law should not be passed.