To Whom It May Concern:

Under existing copyright law, my work is protected from the instant I put so much as a line to paper, and the lengthy process of registration, while recommended, is too costly to do more often than on a collective basis; that is, registering an art book vs. individual pieces. Promoting my work by showing off individual pieces prior to formally compiling them into one collection is beneficial for marketing and artistic branding.

Under the proposed law, if I should promote a piece before it could be registered, I would have no protection against anyone who might decide to resell my artwork before I could. It discourages me and every other artist from sharing artwork until confirmation of registration, and it discourages younger artists (who thrive on social media and may not have the money or understanding to register their work) from expressing themselves.

Artists who earn a living entirely through freelance artwork already have to take on the added tasks of licensing, marketing, publication, and distribution usually handled by other people in a large company. Such an artist, under the proposed law, would now have to put all creative work on hold, work already hindered by the aforementioned non-art-related work, in order to register every piece of artwork ever created, just to prevent further potential loss of income from infringers.

There is no benefit to creativity to require registration for copyright protection. Art is already difficult enough for artists to do, between artwork being undervalued as well as the process of creation in the first place. Infringers, by comparison, need only copy and go through the registration process in order to reap the benefits of someone else's hard work.

Please reconsider changing copyright law.

Lucien Kaine