To The Copyright Office, 7/15/2017

I never write to government offices but have hope that my sincere objections will be taken into consideration. These proposed changes in the Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works, would be devastating to me and my fellow artists.

I am a fine artist in a wonderful Western town. I have been a professional painter for 17 years and hold a Bachelor Of Fine Arts degree. I exhibit my work in galleries and sell to a wide variety of patrons. I enter juried local and national competitions with my original work and have received numerous awards. I have served as the Exhibition chair and President for our local watercolor society.

I rely on my website to reach new patrons. The paintings I display there are my very best. And believe me a very good painting takes a lot of work and happens only after many failed paintings. I can't imagine someone stealing my work or looking with suspicion at my own website and imagining that I may have cheated to get these images. To display or "publicize" of my paintings there only enhances their value. The protection of my creations is not an abstract thing to me, it is my integrity and income as an artist. I must have exclusive control over what I create.

It would be a tremendous burden to have to pay a "for profit" company to register each piece and it's various forms going back 17 years. Corporate entities have no right to steal these images my paintings as if they are something that has no value. My creations could end up as someone else's income from illegitimate prints or even passed off as original paintings using Photoshop and modern printing processes.

Please protect the American artist and do not "reform" the copyright act and orphaned works in this way.

Sincerely,
Marsha S. Owen