To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to the *2015* Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report. And I take particular exception to the removal of specific protections as a rights holder of my visual creations.

I have been developing my skills as an artist for 23 years. During those years, interest in purchasing original and digitally printed copies of the original work has increased so that 3 years ago I formed a state licensed business to sell my work. Concomitantly, I was awarded signature status with the Northwest Watercolor Society, which verifies a level of professional skill.

The specific protections of the existing copy write law, without having to register my work but being automatic, is the basis of my business. Copies of my work are just as valuable and have a market. As such, they become part of my business inventory. This mass digitization and public access without having to pay the artist is an infringement on my rights as the owner of the copy write. Any infringement is stealing even if it is digital.

As to publication of my work, it only increases awareness and purchases from the legal owner, me. Publication does not devalue but may have the opposite effect.

I find these false assumptions wrapped in elegant language which when applied to the broader field of visual art are not truthful. My work has value when published; copy write should be in effect when created not when registered; I copy my work as a matter of course in doing business and that copy has a marketable value.

While this project has value for archiving old orphaned documents, it is easy to have unintended consequences, a ripple effect.

Please do not pass any legislation that is based on this incomplete report.

Regards,
Lee J Allen