



# Group Registration of Two-Dimensional Artwork (GR2D)

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Registering a group of published two-dimensional artwork on one application*

### General Questions

#### ▶ **What is a Group Registration of Two-Dimensional Artwork?**

The Copyright Office has created a new online registration option for a group of published, two-dimensional artworks. This option is known as GR2D. It may be used to register between 2 and 20 two-dimensional artworks published within the same calendar year, provided all eligibility requirements are met. Please review the [eligibility requirements](#) before filing this type of application.

#### ▶ **What are the benefits of using a GR2D application?**

The GR2D application saves money. This group application is more affordable because it allows an applicant to register between two and twenty works with one filing fee, compared to filing a separate application and paying a separate fee for each work. It also saves time and effort because an applicant can file up to twenty published works at a time rather than submitting each one with a separate application.

#### ▶ **Where can I learn more about this group registration option?**

A list of resources is available on the [GR2D webpage](#). Additionally, you can learn more about eligibility requirements, terms used on the application, and more on the [GR2D Help page](#). You may also call our Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free).

### Types of Works

#### ▶ **What types of works may be registered on a GR2D application?**

The GR2D application is limited to two-dimensional artwork, including published paintings, illustrations, sketches, collages, comic strips, character artwork, logos, fabric designs, etc. Most kinds of two-dimensional artwork qualify, but there are some exceptions. See the question and answer below about ineligible works.

#### ▶ **Can I submit a mix of two-dimensional works with one GR2D application—for example, twelve illustrations, three comic strips, and two paintings?**

Yes, as long as they are eligible types of two-dimensional artworks created by the same author and published within the same calendar year.

#### ▶ **What types of works cannot be registered on a GR2D application?**

Works that cannot be registered on a GR2D application include the following:

- joint works (works created by two or more co-authors)
- sculptural or three-dimensional works
- architectural works
- technical drawings
- larger works containing individual artworks within them, such as calendars, catalogs, style guides, websites, compilations, comic books, graphic novels, and retrospective books about individual artists

For additional information about what types of works are and are not eligible, review the full list of [eligibility requirements](#) for this application.

► **Can I register photographs on the GR2D application?**

If you want to register a group of photographs, go to [our page about photographs](#), which includes information and resources about group registration options for photographs, both unpublished and published.

For purposes of registration, photographs that have been substantially edited or manipulated may be considered two-dimensional artwork. If so, the images may be eligible for registration on GR2D, but they may not be eligible for registration using the group registration options for photographs.

*Examples:*



*A photograph, like above, should be filed on the Standard Application or one of the group photo applications.*



*Changing saturation, contrast, brightness, and sharpening, as done here, are standard changes we accept as part of photography. This image should be filed on the Standard Application or one of the group photo applications.*



*Some digital editing mimics traditional painting techniques such as oil painting or watercolor, masking the true origins of the image as a photograph. The image above should be filed on the Standard or GR2D application instead of a group photo application.*



*Collaging multiple photographs and adding illustrations or other artwork substantially changes the underlying photograph. The image above should be filed on the Standard or GR2D application instead of a group photo application.*

Larger artworks that include photography, such as collages, can be registered with the GR2D application.

Likewise, you can upload a photograph of the artwork you wish to register, such as digital photos of your paintings, illustrations, or sketches. In this situation, the registration does not extend to the photographs themselves, only to the artwork captured in the photographs.

For more information on issues involving photographs, see the [GR2D help text](#).

▶ **Are derivative works allowed on GR2D applications?**

Yes. Derivative works may be included in a GR2D application, provided each work was published in the same calendar year and only one author created the new authorship being registered in each derivative work. The Material Excluded field must be completed to exclude any previously published or previously registered content or any material taken from another source on which the new work is based. We also recommend explaining what new authorship was added for this version in the Note to Copyright Office field.

## Publication Information

▶ **Do all of the works need to be published?**

Yes. Unpublished works cannot be registered with the GR2D application.

▶ **Can I register published AND unpublished artworks together on a GR2D application?**

No, this application is only for published two-dimensional artworks. You may use the Group Registration for Unpublished Works (GRUW) application to register between two and ten unpublished works. For information about the GRUW application, including eligibility requirements for this option, visit the [GRUW webpage](#).

▶ **How does the GR2D application differ from the Group Registration for Unpublished Works (GRUW) application?**

GR2D is for published works, and GRUW is for unpublished works. GR2D is for two-dimensional artwork only, whereas GRUW may be used to register most types of works, including two-dimensional or three-dimensional artwork. GR2D can be used to register between two and twenty works, but only up to ten works are allowed on the GRUW application.

▶ **Do I need to provide a specific range of publication dates for the published artworks?**

The submitted works must be published within the same calendar year (January 1 through December 31 of a given year). You cannot mix artwork published in different years on the same GR2D application.

▶ **If I submit a GR2D application today, can I include works published in a prior calendar year?**

Yes, as long as the works were published within the same calendar year. For example, you may NOT register ten works published in 2015 together with ten works published in 2017. In this case, you should submit two GR2D applications, one for the works published in 2015 and the other for the works published in 2017.

## Number of Works

▶ **How many works are allowed on a GR2D application?**

You may submit at least 2 but no more than 20 two-dimensional artworks. The application must specify the total number of works being registered.

▶ **Can I submit more than twenty works with the same GR2D application?**

No.

▶ **May I submit twenty comics strips with the GR2D application, each containing multiple panels?**

Yes, each comic strip would be considered one work if multiple panels were published together as part of the same strip. Be aware that while you can register comic strips on a GR2D application, you cannot register comic books or graphic novels with this option.

## Author Information

▶ **Do the works need to be created by the same author?**

Yes. All of the works being registered must be created by the same author (artist).

▶ **Can my spouse and I submit works together on one GR2D application? We are both artists.**

No, all the works must be created by the same author (artist). Only one author can be named on this application. The group may not include any works created or co-created by more than one author.

▶ **Are works made for hire allowed on GR2D applications?**

Yes, as long as the work-made-for-hire author created all the works being registered, and all other eligibility requirements are met.

The Copyright Office has developed a questionnaire that may be useful in determining whether a particular work qualifies as a work made for hire. To complete the questionnaire and to read more information about this topic, see [Works Made for Hire \(Circular 30\)](#).

## Claimant Information

▶ **Can I reflect a transfer of copyright ownership on this application?**

No. The author named on the GR2D application must also be named as the copyright claimant.

If another party owns the copyright in one or more of the works, that party cannot be named as a claimant in a GR2D application. However, you may record the document that transferred the copyright to that party. This is separate from the registration process. For more information about recordation, see [Recordation of Transfers and Other Documents \(Circular 12\)](#).

If you want a party other than the author to be named as the copyright claimant on the certificate of registration, you should file each work on a separate Standard Application.

## Application Form

▶ **Do I need to submit my claim through the electronic registration system (eCO)?**

Yes. You must submit your application through the Copyright Office's [electronic registration system](#). You cannot use a paper application to register a group of two-dimensional artwork. If you do not have computer access and cannot submit electronically, please contact the Public Information Office to inquire about special accommodations.

▶ **Where do I find the online application for GR2D?**

For visual directions, use our [Finding the GR2D Application](#) PDF. For step-by-step guidance on how to complete the application, view the [help text](#) that accompanies the application.

## Submitting the Works to the Copyright Office

▶ **Can I submit up to twenty works in one electronic file, such as a PDF?**

No, each work must be contained in a separate electronic file. **Do not** combine all your works into one PDF file. If you are registering ten illustrations, for example, you should upload ten separate electronic files. Each file should contain only one illustration.

**Limited exception:** The separate electronic files containing each of your works may be uploaded to the Copyright Office in one ZIP file.

▶ **Do my files need to follow specific naming conventions?**

Yes. The file name for each artwork must match the corresponding title given in the application. For example, if the title of your work is "The Birthday Party" and if you plan to upload a PDF copy of that work, then the file name for that PDF should be "thebirthdayparty.pdf." If we cannot match each file to its corresponding title in the application, registration may be refused for your entire GR2D application.

▶ **Should I send a paper copy of my work to the Copyright Office?**

No. Do not mail a physical copy of your work to the Copyright Office. You must upload electronic copies of your works through the online application system. Even if your works were created in physical format, you must submit an electronic copy or copies documenting the complete work. A photograph or scan is acceptable as long as it shows the complete work. If you cannot submit electronic copies of your works, contact our Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free) to inquire about a special accommodation.

▶ **Do I need to submit a copy of the best edition of each work?**

No. When using the group registration option for two-dimensional artwork, you should submit a digital copy of each work being registered. You do not need to submit a physical copy of the best edition, even if the works were published in a physical form, such as in a book, magazine, poster, or other format.

▶ **Some of my works were published online. Others were published in a book or other physical format. Do I need to submit a screenshot of the webpage or online platform where each work was first published? Do I need to submit a copy of the specific page of the book where each work was published?**

You may submit an electronic copy that shows each work on its own, disassociated from the context where it was first published.

For example, if you created five graphic designs and published those designs on your website, you may upload five files that each contain a complete copy of each work, appearing entirely on its own (instead of submitting a screenshot showing how each design appeared on the website where it was first published).

Likewise, if the works were published in a physical form, you do not need to submit a copy of the best edition of each work. For instance, if you created ten medical illustrations that were first published in a textbook, you should upload a complete copy of each illustration, but you should not submit a physical copy of the book itself.

▶ **What file types are allowed?**

Please see our [list of acceptable file types](#). Common file types for two-dimensional works are .jpg, .png, and .pdf. We can only accept the file types listed at the link above. Uploading a different file type may delay your registration, since we may ask you to upload a copy of the work in one of the accepted file types, or it may result in a refusal, depending on the circumstances.

▶ **Where can I get information about how to upload my works?**

A list of resources is available on the [GR2D webpage](#).

## Supplementary Registration

▶ **I registered a group of published two-dimensional artworks with a GR2D application and found an error in my certificate. How do I correct this error or add additional information to the certificate?**

You may be able to correct or amplify the information in a certificate of registration by submitting an application for a Supplementary Registration. Filing a Supplementary Registration will not change the existing registration record, but it makes a new record of the changes, which is cross referenced with the earlier registration record. Before completing a Supplementary Registration application for GR2D, contact our Public Information Office at 202-707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free) and explain why you want to correct or add information to your GR2D registration. Your case will be referred to a subject-matter expert who will ensure that the reason for amending your GR2D registration is acceptable (before you file a supplementary registration application). Additionally, please note that you may not add new works to your previous GR2D registrations. See [Supplementary Registration \(Circular 8\)](#) for more information on supplementary registration.