

Information for the “Copy a Master” Exhibition

Copyright is a little complex when it comes to art.

It is generally accepted that if the artist has been dead for 70 years then copyright is extinguished.

I will assume the art you want to copy was produced in 1915. So a work by an Artist that was made in 1915 and the artist died before 1952 would typically be out of copyright in 2022. If the artist died after 1952 the art would still be copyrighted.

The exceptions are if the work was not made public until after 1952, that is after the artist died. The work would still be copyrighted until 70 years after the work was first made public.

Being made public generally means when it is first offered for sale or exhibited.

So for example, Tom Roberts painted *Shearing of the Rams* and exhibited it in 1890, he finished *Painting the Opening of Parliament* and exhibited it in 1903. Tom Roberts died in 1931. Hence these two works are out of copyright in 2001 (the life of the author/artist plus 70 years).

Hope this helps.

Warm regards
Andrew Smith

Made before 1 January 2019	Works	Identity of author is generally known + never made public or made public before death or made public after death and on/after 1 January 2019	Life of author + 70 years
		Identity of author is generally known + made public after death but before 1 January 2019	Year first made public +70 years
		Identity of author is NOT generally known + made public before 1 January 2019 or made public on or after 1 January 2019 and within 50 years of its creation	Year first made public + 70 years
		Identity of author is NOT generally known + Never made public or made public on or after 1 January 2019 but not within 50 years of its creation	Year first made + 70 years