1 2 FILED & ENTERED 3 MAY 19 2022 4 5 **CLERK U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT** Central District of California BY Ilewis DEPUTY CLERK 6 7 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 8 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 LOS ANGELES DIVISION 10 In re: Case No. 2:13-bk-14135-RK 11 ART & ARCHITECTURE BOOKS OF THE 21st Chapter 11 12 CENTURY, Adv. No. 2:15-ap-01679-RK 13 Debtor. REPORT AND 14 RECOMMENDATION OF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT TO UNITED STATES DISTRICT 15 SAM LESLIE, Plan Agent, COURT FOR THE CENTRAL 16 Plaintiff, DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA ON PLAN AGENT'S MOTION FOR 17 CONTEMPT AGAINST DOUGLAS v. CHRISMAS AND ON DEFENDANT 18 ACE GALLERY NEW YORK CORPORATION, AND COUNTERCLAIMANT et al., **DOUGLAS CHRISMAS'S** 19 COUNTERCLAIMS AS TO PRE-Defendants. 1999 ART POSTERS 20 Trial 21 Dates: January 6 and 21, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m. U.S. Bankruptcy Court 22 Courtroom: Courtroom 1675 255 E. Temple St. 23 Los Angeles, CA 90012 ZOOM.GOV 24 25 TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF 26 CALIFORNIA, AND THE LITIGATING PARTIES, PLAN AGENT SAM LESLIE, 27 DOUGLAS CHRISMAS, AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD: 28

The United States Bankruptcy Court hereby issues the following report and recommendation pursuant to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7052 and 9033 relating to two litigation disputes over ownership of certain Art Posters on:

- (A) the Motion of Sam Leslie as Plan Agent ("Plan Agent") for Debtor Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century ("Debtor"), under the confirmed Second Amended Plan of Reorganization of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Plan") for: (1) Issuance of Order to Show Cause for Contempt against Douglas Chrismas ("Chrismas"), an individual; (2) to Compel Douglas Chrismas to Issue Correspondence Retracting Letter Dated October 27, 2021 Addressed to Mr. Jeff Tanenbaum of ThreeSixty Asset Advisors as well as Contents of October 27, 2021 Email from Jonathan Shenson, Esq. to Carolyn A. Dye, Esq. and Victor A. Sahn, Esq.; or in the Alternative; (3) for Order Interpreting and Enforcing Terms and Conditions of Confirmation Order on Confirmed Plan of Reorganization of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors; and (4) for Sanctions against Douglas Chrismas, Individually Including Monetary Sanctions; Declarations of Victor A. Sahn and Sam Leslie in Support of Motion, Electronic Case Filing ("ECF" or Docket) No. 2661 filed in the above-captioned bankruptcy case on November 8, 2021; and
- (B) the First, Second, Third and Fourth Counterclaims for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion and Replevin/Claim and Delivery in the First Amended Counter-Complaint of Defendant Douglas Chrismas against Plaintiff Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century, Sam Leslie, Plan Agent ("Plaintiff"), ECF or Docket No. 640 filed in the above-captioned adversary proceeding within the above-captioned bankruptcy case on July 30, 2019, regarding specific personal property that Mr. Chrismas claims he personally owns, namely, Art Posters created before the formation of the Debtor Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century in June 1999 ("Art Posters"). ¹

¹ This report and recommendation is being filed and entered in both the main bankruptcy case and the adversary proceeding within the bankruptcy case, and thus reflected on the separate case

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In the first matter, the Plan Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions against Douglas Chrismas, the Plan Agent contends that Chrismas should be held in contempt for violating the bankruptcy court's order confirming the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case. The plan confirmation order provides that the Plan Agent may sell assets of the Debtor, a California corporation which operates an art gallery business. The assets included certain valuable Art Posters. Plan Agent argues that Chrismas is interfering with the Plan Agent's sales of these Art Posters through auction pursuant to the confirmed Plan of Reorganization and the court's order thereon by Chrismas claiming ownership of the Art Posters and threatening the Plan Agent and the auctioneer with litigation. According to Chrismas, he acquired certain Art Posters before the Debtor was formed or incorporated in June 1999, which included posters of artworks by famous artists like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Rauschenberg, and he never transferred ownership of these posters to the Debtor after it was incorporated, though he admits that he may have had that intention at some time. The Plan Agent contends that Chrismas is acting in bad faith by now asserting ownership claims to the pre-1999 Art Posters because he made representations to the court and the creditors in the Debtor's bankruptcy case while he was in control of the Debtor in documents filed in this bankruptcy case that the Art Posters were part of the Debtor's assets. For example, Chrismas signed a declaration under penalty of perjury in support of the Debtor's motion to assume a lease on its primary business premises at 5500 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90036, which represented that the Debtor owned Art Posters, including the now disputed pre-1999 Art Posters, which he valued as an art expert at \$13 million. This declaration by Chrismas attesting to the value of the Art Posters at \$13 million was intended to demonstrate that the Debtor had the financial ability to meet its obligations to pay rent under the lease that it sought to assume in the bankruptcy case. ² In Chrismas's declaration in opposition to the Plan

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dockets of the main bankruptcy case and the adversary proceeding as the Plan Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions is pending in the main bankruptcy case as his motion seeks to enforce an order confirming the Plan of Reorganization entered in the main bankruptcy case and the First Amended Counter-Complaint of Douglas Chrismas is pending in the adversary proceeding within the main bankruptcy case.

² While the bankruptcy court granted the Debtor's motion to assume the lease which was based on

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Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions, Chrismas asserted that his statements in his prior declaration representing that the Debtor owned the pre-1999 Art Posters was in error because he really only meant to transfer these posters to the Debtor only if the Debtor was allowed to assume the lease and that the representation that the Debtor then owned the posters was a mistake. According to Chrismas, he could not be held in contempt for interfering with the sales of the pre-1999 Art Posters under the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and the order thereon if he is the owner of the posters.

Chrismas's claims of ownership of the pre-1999 Art Posters form the bases of his counterclaims against the Debtor and the Plan Agent in those assets as well as other assets. In Chrismas's First Amended Counter-Complaint, he asserts four claims for relief including declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery that he, not the Debtor, owns certain art assets, including the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters, that the Plan Agent is administering and trying to sell on behalf of the Debtor's creditors to pay their claims pursuant to the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case. Because resolution of the Plan Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions raises the same material issue of fact of who owns the pre-1999 Art Posters as Chrismas's counterclaims as to the posters, the Bankruptcy Court concluded that the determination of this factual issue of the ownership of the pre-1999 Art Poster would likely be dispositive in both litigation matters, so it set a single trial of both matters, which was conducted on January 6 and 21, 2022. *See* Trial Scheduling Order, ECF or Docket No. 1192, filed on December 15, 2021, in the above-captioned adversary proceeding.

Chrismas's declaration valuing the Debtor's Art Posters at \$13 million, the District Court on appeal reversed the bankruptcy court's order granting the Debtor's motion to assume the lease. *In re Art and Architecture Books of the 21st Century*, No. 2:13-bk-14135-RK, 2013 WL 4874343 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2013), *vacating and remanding*, No. 2:13-cv-6990-GW (C.D. Cal. Jan. 12, 2014). On remand, the bankruptcy court determined that the Debtor could not assume the lease because it had waived its right to relief from forfeiture. *In re Art and Architecture Books of the 21st Century*, 518 B.R. 43 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. 2014), *affirmed in part and vacated and remanded in part*, No. CV 14-9009-GW, 2015 WL 139169197 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2015)

³ In his counterclaims in the First Amended Counter-Complaint, Douglas Chrismas also seeks relief as to other art assets that are not being adjudicated at this time. The Bankruptcy Court's adjudication of Mr. Chrismas's counterclaims at this time is limited to the pre-1999 Art Posters.

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Having considered the testimony and evidence received at trial and the oral and written arguments of the parties, including proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law submitted by the parties, regarding the Plan Agent's motion to hold Douglas Chrismas in contempt and for declaratory relief and sanctions as to his claim of ownership of the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters and the counterclaims of Douglas Chrismas in his First Amended Counter-Complaint against the Plan Agent for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery as to the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters, the United States Bankruptcy Court recommends that the United States District Court for the Central District of California adopt the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issue a final judgment for: (1) granting in part and denying in part the Plan Agent's motion to hold Douglas Chrismas in contempt and for declaratory relief and sanctions in that Chrismas should not be held in contempt, that sanctions should not be imposed on him, but that declaratory relief be rendered that the Debtor, not Chrismas, owns the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters, and (2) denying and dismissing Chrismas's counterclaims in his First Amended Counter-Complaint for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery as to the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters on grounds that the Debtor, not Chrismas, owns the posters.

The United States Bankruptcy Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the counterclaims in the First Amended Counter-Complaint of Defendant Douglas Chrismas for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery under its jurisdiction of 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) over matters related to a bankruptcy case under the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C., because such claims are based on alleged tortious acts by the Debtor in asserting ownership over property that Chrismas asserts is his and in defense of these claims, the Plan Agent on behalf of the Debtor seeks to vindicate its rights pursuant to the confirmed plan of reorganization claiming that the property belonged to the Debtor's bankruptcy estate. However, because these disputes "otherwise related to" a bankruptcy case involve rights existing outside of bankruptcy and are thus "noncore" proceedings. See March, Ahart and Shapiro, Rutter Group California Practice Guide:

Bankruptcy, ¶¶ 1:105-1:108 (online edition, December 2021 update), citing inter alia, Stern v.

Marshall, 564 U.S. 462, 475-477 (2011); In re Ray, 624 F.3d 1124, 1131 (9th Cir. 2010). In

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contrast, "core" proceedings "generally involve causes of action *created or determined by the Bankruptcy Code* or administrative matters arising only in bankruptcy cases." March, Ahart and Shapiro, *Rutter Group California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy*, ¶¶ 1:450-1:451, *citing inter alia, In re Harris Pine Mills*, 44 F.3d 1431, 1435-1436 (9th Cir. 1995).

The United States Bankruptcy Court may hear but not determine "noncore" proceedings and thus may not enter a final judgment on Defendant Douglas Chrismas's counterclaims for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery against Plaintiff Sam Leslie as the Plan Agent for the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case, because Defendant Chrismas's counterclaims against Plaintiff Leslie as the Plan Agent for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery are noncore claims based on nonbankruptcy law under state law or the common law. The Bankruptcy Court may enter final judgment on noncore claims within its related to jurisdiction if such claims relate to the claims allowance process or when the parties consent to the bankruptcy court jurisdiction. Wellness International Network, Ltd. v. Sharif, 575 U.S. 665, 674-686 (2015). Chrismas's counterclaims are noncore claims within the bankruptcy court's "related to" jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), but do not relate to the claims allowance process. As to consent to bankruptcy court jurisdiction, the Plan Agent has expressly consented to bankruptcy court jurisdiction in the adversary proceeding in which Chrismas's counterclaims are asserted by the Plan Agent's statements of consent in status reports filed in the adversary proceeding. Defendant Chrismas in his answers to the Plan Agent's complaints in the adversary proceeding expressly stated that he does not consent to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court to enter a final judgment in the adversary proceeding.

The United States Bankruptcy Court finds that Defendant Chrismas has not impliedly consented to bankruptcy court jurisdiction to enter a final judgment to determine his counterclaims against Plaintiff Leslie, Plan Agent. Absent consent of all of the parties to Defendant Chrismas's counterclaims for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery, this court lacks jurisdiction to enter a final judgment on these claims.

The United States Bankruptcy Court, however, does have jurisdiction to hear Defendant

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Chrismas's counterclaims for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery against Plaintiff Leslie, Plan Agent, which are noncore claims under its "related to" jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and issue proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law for *de novo* review by the United States District Court. 28 U.S.C. § 157 (c)(1); *Executive Benefits Insurance Agency v. Arkison*, 573 U.S. 25, 39-40 (2014). Accordingly, the United States Bankruptcy Court determines that it may issue proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9033 in submitting its rulings on the counterclaims as a report and recommendation to the United States District Court for the Central District of California for *de novo* review.

Having considered the testimony and evidence received at trial and the oral and written arguments of the parties, including the Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law submitted by both parties, which the Bankruptcy Court has independently reviewed and modified, the bankruptcy court adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, subject to *de novo* review of the United States District Court.

<u>NO.</u>	FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING <u>EVIDENCE</u>
1.	From February 19, 2013, the date on which Debtor filed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition, commencing this bankruptcy case (the "Petition Date") through April 6, 2016, the effective date of the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case (the "Effective Date"), Chrismas was the primary officer of the Debtor, and was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Debtor as a Debtor-in-Possession ("DIP") and controlled the Debtor. Before the Effective Date, Mr. Chrismas was the principal and sole owner of the Debtor.	Sixth Amended Complaint ("6AC"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 699 at ¶¶ 1, 14, 23 and 25. Defendant Chrismas's Answer to the Sixth Amended Complaint ("Ans."), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. or ECF 703 at ¶¶ 1, 11, 17, 18. Testimony of Douglas Chrismas, January 6, 2022.
2.	At various times prior to the Effective Date, Chrismas was in control of Defendants Ace Gallery NY Corporation ("Ace NY"), Ace Gallery NY, Inc. ("Old Ace NY"), and Ace Museum, a non-profit California Corporation.	6AC at ¶ 21. Ans. at ¶ 15.
3.	On April 6, 2016, the Effective Date, the Plan Agent's appointment under the confirmed Plan of	Declaration of Sam S. Leslie ("Leslie Poster

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1 2		Reorganization in this bankruptcy case took effect, and the Plan Agent took control and possession of the Debtor's premises and	Dec."), Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2688 at ¶ 29,
3		operations located at: (i) 5514 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036 (the "Mid-Wilshire	pg. 10, lines 25-28.
4		Location"); and (ii) 9430 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (the "BH Gallery").	
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6	4.	When the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business pursuant to his appointment under the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶¶ 32-33.
7		bankruptcy case, he immediately took steps to capture the data on the computers on the	
8		premises, among other things, by "mirroring" all	
9		the hard drives of the computers on site and ensuring that all paper files were preserved, maintained and safeguarded.	
10	5.		Lastia Dastar Das at ¶¶ 20
11	J.	Based on the preservation of the data on and subsequent to the review of the Debtor's	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶¶ 30-31.
12		computer system and files and from the Plan Agent's interviews with former employees who	
13		helped to prepare and maintain the Debtor's books and records, by taking control of the	
14		Debtor's computers and files, the Plan Agent was also able to obtain the books and records of	
		certain corporations owned and operated by	
15		Douglas Chrismas because they were all maintained on the same computers and server	
16		over which the Plan Agent had control.	
17	6.	These additional records included accounting	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶ 31.
18		information for Ace Museum, Ace Gallery New York Corporation, and the dissolved Ace Gallery	
19		New York Inc. (collectively, the "Non-Debtor Entities"), as well as certain "paper" files relating	
20		to these entities.	
21	7.	When Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business, he needed to gain an immediate and	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶ 30 and 35.
22		intricate understanding of the Debtor's ordinary course business operations so that he could	wiid 33.
23		continue to operate the business as required under the Bankruptcy Court's order appointing	
24		the Plan Agent.	
25	8.	The Plan Agent gained a first-hand familiarity along with his staff of the Debtor's operations,	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶ 36.
26		inventory of artwork, customers and Art Posters.	
27	9.	The Plan Agent and his staff reviewed all the Debtor's bank records, sales invoices, and other	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶¶ 36-40.
28		financial and business records as well as the parallel records of Ace Museum and Ace New	

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1 2 3 4 5 6		York. The Debtor's business records also included bank records, sales invoices, and other financial records of Ace Gallery New York Corporation ("Ace NYC"), and Ace Museum, a California corporation ("Ace Museum"), which were among the records that were reviewed. These records of these separate affiliated companies were among the records that were obtained by the Plan Agent, on or after April 6, 2016	
7 8 9 10 11	10.	In addition, the Plan Agent became familiar with the basic business operations of Debtor, such as the form contracts used with artists, the accounting program, the procedures for invoicing purchasers, and other such ordinary course practices. This included the sale of the Art Posters which are the subject of the current dispute between the parties, the Plan Agent and Douglas Chrismas.	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶¶ 36-37.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27		As a result of this analysis, the Plan Agent developed an extensive understanding of the Debtor's pre-petition and post-petition operations, including the details of the conversion of Debtor's assets that was carried out by Douglas Chrismas during his tenure controlling the Debtor's operations prior to and after the Effective Date.	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶¶ 30-40. See also, Report and Recommendation of United States Bankruptcy Court that the United States District Court Adopt the Bankruptcy Court's Statement of Uncontroverted Facts and Conclusions of Law on Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's Claims for Conversion and Breach of Fiduciary Duty against Defendant Douglas Chrismas and Grant Summary Judgment on These Claims, Leslie v. Ace Gallery New York Corp. (In re Art and Architecture Books of the 21st Century), No. 2:13-bk-14135-RK Chapter 11; Adv. No. 2:15-ap-01679-RK, 2022 WL 481880 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2022), approved, No. CV 22-01265-PA, 2022 WL 1405660 (C.D. Cal. May 3, 2022).
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12.	Based on the Plan Agent's experience and on review of the undisputed business records of the Debtor, the Plan Agent concluded that the Art Posters were in fact inventory of the Debtor and proceeded to offer them for sale to the public in an auction to reduce the inventory and to generate funds needed for operating the Debtor.	Leslie Poster Dec. at ¶ 40.
	generate rands needed for operating the Bestor.	

Facts Leading to the Current Dispute over Ownership of the Art Posters

	FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
13.	The Confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case specifically provided for the Plan Agent to sell the Debtor's artwork assets pursuant to the Plan. The confirmed Plan of Reorganization provides as follows ⁴ : "Until a Plan Termination Event, if any, takes place (as that term is defined in the Confirmation Order), the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the Plan Agent shall, subject to the Plan and the provisions of the AERC Plan Term Sheet, include: (1) The Plan Agent shall immediately take possession of the Debtor's operating locations at 5514 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California and 9400 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California and operate the galleries in the normal course of business; (2) The Debtor's employees who remain shall work for the Post-Confirmation Debtor and report to the Plan Agent; (3) The Plan Agent will have discretion to employ or not employ these parties as he/she sees fit; (4) The Plan Agent (i) will take possession of all of the Debtor's books and records including those located at its Los Angeles and Beverly Hills locations, and those which are in the possession of any third party, (ii) may employ such professionals as are necessary to enable him/her to carry out their responsibilities, (iii) notwithstanding the AERC Plan Term Sheet, shall communicate with Wilson/WASL, AERC and Chrismas, and their counsel, on a regular, as-	Plan Confirmation Order, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1873, pg. 7, ¶ 14, lines 12-28 (sometimes referred to herein as the "Plan Confirmation Order"); see also, Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 1, lines 13- 23.

⁴ References are to the "Motion of Sam Leslie as Plan Agent Under Confirmed Plan of Reorganization for: (1) Issuance of Order to Show Cause for Contempt Against Douglas Chrismas, An Individual; (2) To Compel Douglas Chrismas to Issue Correspondence Retracting Letter Dated October 27, 2021 Addressed to Mr. Jeff Tanenbaum of ThreeSixty Asset Advisors as Well as Contents of October 27, 2021 Email from Jonathan Shenson, Esq. to Carolyn A. Dye, Esq and Victor A. Sahn, Esq.; Or In the Alternative (3) For Order Interpreting and Enforcing Terms and Conditions of Confirmation Order on Confirmed Plan of Reorganization of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors; and (4) For Sanctions Against Douglas Chrismas, Individually Including Monetary Sanctions Declarations of Victor A. Sahn and Sam Leslie in Support of Motion" filed as Docket No. 2661 in this bankruptcy case (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan Agent Motion").

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1 2		needed basis, and (iv) sell artwork vested in the Post-Confirmation Debtor in such manner as determined by the Plan Agent;"	
3	14.	The Plan Agent has retained the services of	Declaration of Sam Leslie
4		ThreeSixty Asset Partners and Mr. Jeff Tanenbaum of that firm to auction off certain artwork owned by the Debtor which artwork is	in Support of Order to Show Cause, Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case
5		specifically provided for in the confirmed Plan and the Plan Confirmation Order. This artwork	Docket No. 2661, pg. 23, ¶ 4, lines 2-7.
6		is the so-called Art Poster inventory ("Art Poster" or "Art Posters") which is made of up of many	11 19
7		hundreds or thousands of Artwork Posters owned by the Debtor and transferred to Sam Leslie as	
8 9		Plan Agent pursuant to the confirmed Plan or Reorganization and the Plan Confirmation Order.	
10	15.	The Plan Agent's auctioneer hired an online auctioneer company who advertised the Artwork	Declaration of Sam Leslie in Support of Order to
11		Posters for sale and was accumulating bids for the artwork under a deadline that bidders had to	Show Cause, Plan Agent Motion, Docket No. 2661,
12		submit their bids. The online auctioneer set a date of November 3, 2021 for bidders to submit	pg. 23, ¶ 5, lines 8-15.
13		their bids for those Art Posters that they wished to purchase.	
14	16.	On October 27, 2021, several days before the scheduled deadline for submitting bids for the	Trial Exhibit P-24; ⁵ see also, Plan Agent Motion,
15		online auction sale, counsel for Douglas Chrismas, Jonathan Shenson, authored and sent	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 2, lines 18-
16 17		the following email correspondence on behalf of his client to counsel for the Plan Agent, Victor Sahn and Carolyn Dye:	28, pg. 3, lines 1-8.
18		The text of the email from Jonathan Shenson	
19		dated October 27, 2021 at 2:07 p.m., Pacific Time, addressed to Carolyn Dye and Victor Sahn	
20		who are counsel to the Plan Agent stated: "Victor & Carol,	
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22		It has come to my attention that 360 Asset Advisors is proceeding with a series of auctions to liquidate art assets in the	
23		debtor's possession with the first auction for posters already being advertised. The	
24		advertisement misleadingly states these assets are being sold pursuant to an order	
25		of the bankruptcy court, presumably to wrongly imply that the assets are being	
26		sold free and clear of any claims or	

⁵ All of the Exhibits referred to in these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were admitted by the Court into evidence.

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1		interests. As you know, my client contends he owns various art assets in the	
2		debtor's possession including the posters that were made prior to June 1999 are	
3		now being offered in the first auction (the "Disputed Assets") and my firm has an	
5		attorney's lien on any such assets. Please be advised that my client and I do not	
6		consent to the sale of any of the Disputed Assets. All rights and remedies are hereby reserved and preserved.	
7		Thanks," (the "Shenson October 27 Email")	
8			
9		The Shenson October 27 Email takes the position that there is not an Order of the Bankruptcy	
10		Court permitting the sale free and clear of liens or interests. Further, the Shenson October 27 Email stated that Mr. Shenson's client (Mr.	
11		Chrismas) asserts an ownership interest in the Art Posters that are the subject of the November 3,	
12		2021 Auction by the Plan Agent. Further, Mr.	
13		Shenson asserts an attorneys' lien on the Art Posters being sold by the Plan Agent's	
14		auctioneer.	
15	17.	Also, on October 27, 2021, Douglas Chrismas wrote and sent by email a letter to the Plan	Trial Exhibits P-25 and P- 26; Declaration of Sam
16		Agent's auctioneer, Jeff Tanenbaum. Mr. Chrismas in this letter asserted that the Plan	Leslie in Support of Order to Show Cause, Plan Agent
17		Agent's Art Poster included property that belonged to Mr. Chrismas. The email from Mr.	Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661 ¶ 6, pg.
18		Chrismas to Mr. Tanenbaum transmitting the October 27, 2021 Letter stated:	26, line 28, pg. 27, lines 1- 26; Declaration of Victor A.
19		"Mr. Tanenbaum,	Sahn in Support of Order to Show Cause, Plan Agent
20		Please find attached a letter regarding your upcoming auction of Ace Gallery's assets, a	Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661 ¶ 6, pg.
21		copy of my counter complaint contesting	18, lines 18-28; see also, Plan Agent Motion,
22		ownership of items that are offered for sale in your auction and an e-mail from my attorney to Sam Leslie's counsel.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 3, ¶ 6.
23			
24		Rest assured, if any of these items prior to June 1999 are sold we will pursue your	
25		company with the appropriate attorneys with rigor.	
26		Douglas Chrismas"	
27	18.	The October 27, 2021 letter from Douglas	Trial Exhibit P-25; see also,
28		Chrismas to Mr. Tanenbaum, the Plan Agent's auctioneer, stated in pertinent part:	Plan Agent Motion, Docket No. 2661, pg. 3, ¶ 6, lines

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1			22-27.
		"Any posters that had been printed after June	
2		1999, Sam Leslie has the right to sell. Posters	
		that had been created before June 1999, Sam	
3		Leslie does not have clear titles to, hence he	
4		cannot sell those free and clear of claims. If you	
4		have any artwork and/or posters that predates	
5		June 1999 you must have proof of ownership of	
3		such items evidenced by a purchase order etc. which gives you clear titles to the works offered	
6		at auction. Everything that predates June 1999 is	
		subjected to my claim of ownership."	
7		J J	
	19.	The assertion of ownership in the pre-1999 Art	Trial Exhibit P-22;
8		Posters by Douglas Chrismas in his October 27,	Declaration of Victor A.
		2021 correspondence to Jeff Tanenbaum, the	Sahn in Support of Order to
9		Plan Agent's auctioneer, and Mr. Chrismas's	Show Cause, Plan Agent
10		counsel, Jonathan Shenson, to the Plan Agent's	Motion, Bankruptcy Case
10		counsel, Victor Sahn and Carolyn Dye, is inconsistent with Mr. Chrismas's declaration	Docket No. 2661, ¶ 5, pg. 19, lines 8-28, pg. 20, lines
11		under penalty of perjury filed in this bankruptcy	1-3; Direct Valuation
		case on August 5, 2013 in support of Debtor's	Testimony of Douglas
12		motion to assume the master lease at 5500	Chrismas in Support of
		Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California	Debtor's Motion Assume
13		90036, which identifies the Debtor's Art Poster	Master Lease for Real
1.4		inventory as including the pre-1999 Art Posters.	Property at 5500
14		That is Mr. Chrismasis Associate 5 2012	Wilshire Blvd., Los
15		That is, Mr. Chrismas's August 5, 2013 Declaration describes the exact same Art Posters	Angeles, CA 90036 ("Direct Valuation
13		which are the subject of the Plan Agent's efforts	Declaration" or "Chrismas
16		to sell through Mr. Tanenbaum and his auction	Declaration"), Bankruptcy
		company. The Art Posters, according to this	Case Docket No. 266; see
17		Declaration of Mr. Chrismas, were extremely	also, Plan Agent Motion,
10		valuable bankruptcy estate property worth,	Bankruptcy Case Docket
18		according to Mr. Chrismas (who described	No. 2661, ¶ 7, pg. 4, lines
19		himself in the declaration as an expert on the value of artwork) \$13 million at wholesale prices	8-24.
17		(\$26 million retail value). Mr. Chrismas's August	
20		2013 declaration was offered by the Debtor in	
		evidence at the trial on the Debtor's motion to	
21		assume the lease for the purpose of satisfying at	
		the time the Debtor's burden to show that it could	
22		provide its landlord, AERC-Desmond Tower,	
23		LLC, with adequate protection of its lease to the	
23		Debtor of the real property located at 5500 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California by	
24		showing it had sufficient assets to make good on	
		its lease obligations. Debtor at the time was the	
25		tenant under a lease with AERC-Desmond	
		Tower. This Declaration of Mr. Chrismas was	
26		submitted in response to AERC's position that	
27		the Debtor was not satisfying its burden to	
27		provide AERC with "adequate assurance of	
28		future performance" as required under 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)(1)(C). Mr. Chrismas's August 5,	
-0	<u> </u>	1 0.5.0. V 505/0/(1/(C). IVII. CIIIISIIIAS S August 5,	

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1 2 3		2013 Declaration attesting to the Debtor's ownership and valuation of the Art Posters is Docket No. 266 in the Debtor's bankruptcy case filed on August 5, 2013.	
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	20.	Douglas Chrismas in his August 5, 2013 declaration stated under penalty of perjury that the pre-1999 Art Posters were owned by the Debtor. Specifically, in his declaration entitled Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Debtor's Motion [to] Assume Master Lease for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036, Mr. Chrismas stated as follows: "I, Douglas Chrismas, declare as follows: 1. I am the President of Art And Architecture Books Of The 21st Century, dba Ace Gallery, chapter 11 debtor and debtor-in-possession (the 'Debtor'). As President of the Debtor, I am involved in virtually all aspects of the Debtor's operations and financial condition. I am also the Director and Chief Curator of the Debtor. 2. This Declaration is submitted as my direct valuation testimony of the Debtor's contemporary art work, including posters, in connection with the trial on the Debtor's Motion to Assume Master Lease as to the real property located at 5500 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. ****	Trial Exhibit P-22; Exhibit 6 to Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, Bates-Stamped pgs. 061-068, especially Bates-Stamped pg. 065, lines 6-12, citing and quoting, Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Debtor's Motion to Assume Master Lease for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266. Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 2 and 3 and Exhibits 2 and 3 attached thereto. See Russell, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, § 801.12 (online edition, November 2021 update), citing inter alia, Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2).
18		13. During February, March, and April	.,,,,
19		2013, my staff and I also undertook the task of compiling an inventory of the Debtor's posters. I	
20		inspected and evaluated the Debtor's poster collection and formed the opinion that the	
21		Debtor's poster collection is worth in excess of \$26 million at retail prices. The Debtor is	
22		marketing and selling these posters to museums, poster stores, and other galleries that engage in retail sales of posters. The wholesale value of	
23		retail sales of posters. The wholesale value of the poster collection is in excess of of \$13	
24		million. A true and correct copy of the poster inventory (Trial Exhibit 53) is attached as Exhibit 1.	
25		I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws	
26		of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.	
27		Executed on August 5, 2013 at Los Angeles,	
28		California.	

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1		/s/ DOUGLAS CHRISMAS"	
2		Exhibit 1 to this Declaration entitled Ace Gallery Poster Inventory "2.15.13" (i.e., February 15,	
3 4		2013) listed a total of 62,500 art posters, including the pre-1999 Art Posters, which are at issue in these disputed litigation matters.	
5		The Bankruptcy Court finds that Mr. Chrismas's	
6		statements in this declaration filed in this bankruptcy case under penalty of perjury are	
7		evidentiary admissions constituting relevant and admissible substantive evidence probative of	
8		ownership of the pre-1999 Art Posters and support a finding that the Debtor, not Mr.	
9		Chrismas, owns the pre-1999 Art Posters	
10	21.	Douglas Chrismas in his August 5, 2013	Trial Exhibit P-22; see also,
11		Declaration identified the Debtor's Art Poster inventory as an exhibit to his declaration (Exhibit 1), which listed a total of 62,500 Art Posters	Reply of Sam Leslie, Plan Agent, to Response to Order to Show Cause Why
12		which were the subject of his expert valuation at \$26 million retail value. These are the Art Posters	Douglas Chrismas Should Not Be Held in
13		and no others which the Plan Agent seeks to sell through his auction. Exhibit 1 to the Chrismas	Contempt of Court for Violations of the
14		August 5, 2013 Declaration identified numerous Art Posters that predate the year 1999. There are	Order Confirming Second Amended Plan of the
15		a number of "Andy Warhol" Posters, nine rows of them, constituting 4,672 posters which are	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors
16		dated in 1976 and 1977. There are approximately 10 rows of posters of Robert Rauschenberg from	("Leslie Reply"), Bankruptcy Case Docket
17		1977, 1978, 1980 and 1989 totaling 12,110 Art Posters. Following the Rauschenberg Art Posters	No. 2672, pg. 2, lines 23-26, pg. 3, lines 1-15.
18		are five rows of Robert Smithson Art Posters totaling approximately 106 Art Posters. There are	
19		3,293 Art Posters from the artist Roy Lichtenstein which are dated in 1979 and right	
20		after that single row, another 2,496 Art Posters from the artist Sam Francis which are dated in	
21		1979. There are other Art Posters interspersed through Exhibit 1 to the Chrismas August 5,	
22		2013 Declaration which predate 1999 and which were included by Mr. Chrismas in his August 5,	
23		2013 Declaration attesting these Art Posters were valued as the Debtor's property by him under	
24		penalty of perjury.	
25	22.	The Plan Agent is seeking to sell the Art Posters which are the same Art Posters as described in	Leslie Reply, pg. 4, ¶ 2, lines 18-20.
26		the Chrismas Declaration of August 5, 2013 valuing these posters as the Debtor's property	
27		worth \$13 Million valuation at wholesale value.	
28	23.	On January 6, 2016, when the Debtor was under the control of Douglas Chrismas, the Debtor filed	Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization, Bankruptcy

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1 2		an Amended Plan of Reorganization filed in this Bankruptcy Case on January 6, 2016 which referred to its Art Posters, as follows: "1.68	Case Docket No. 1572, pg. 10, lines 20-21.
3		Owned Posters . Any posters owned by the Debtor, which is not an Owned Artwork or Consigned Artwork." ⁶	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
5		Douglas Chrismas signed the Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization filed on January 6, 2016	
6		on behalf of the Debtor as its president.	
7 8	24.	The Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization filed on January 6, 2016 on behalf of Debtor's management (i.e., Douglas Chrismas) further	Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization, pg. 29, lines 9-18, Bankruptcy Case
9		provided that the plan would be funded from the Debtor's sales of artwork, including its Art Posters referred tp as the "Owned Posters" in	Docket No. 1572. Finding of Fact No. 1
10		Section 1.68 of the plan as stated as follows:	above.
11		"5.5 Funding for the Plan. Distributions to holders of allowed claims will be funded	
12		primarily from the following sources:	
13		***	
14		(g) the net proceeds received from the Reorganized Debtor's sale and monetization of	
15		the Owned Artwork, the Consigned Artwork, and the Owned Posters, including, but not limited	
16		to, any Owned Artwork, Consigned Artwork, or Owned Posters released to the Reorganized	
17		Debtor after payment of secured creditors with liens against such Owned Artwork,	
18		Consigned Artwork, or Owned Posters in accordance with the Plan, regardless of whether the proceeds are received prior or subsequent to	
19		the Effective Date, the Confirmation Date, or the Confirmation Order".	
20		the community of the first terms	
21	25.	The Disclosure Statement accompanying the Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization filed	Debtor's Disclosure Statement, pg. 8, lines 6-10,
22		on January 6, 2016 on behalf of Debtor's management (i.e., Douglas Chrismas) referred to	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1573.
23		the Debtor's Art Posters, the "Owned Posters," describing them in the same way as the Art	Finding of Fact No. 1
24		Poster Inventory described in the August 5, 2013 Declaration of Douglas Chrismas, having a	above.
25			

²⁶

27

⁶ This Amended Plan of Reorganization filed by the Debtor was the proposal of Debtor's management headed by Douglas Chrismas, which made it essentially Mr. Chrismas's plan as he controlled the Debtor. This plan was the Debtor's proposal to its creditors for its reorganization. However, the Debtor's plan was not the one confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court.

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1		wholesale value of \$13 million and a retail value of \$26 million:	
2		"Additionally, during February, March, and April	
3		2013, the Debtor also undertook the task of compiling an inventory of the Debtor's	
5		posters (the "Owned Posters"). The Debtor's principal [Douglas Chrismas] inspected and evaluated the Debtor's Owned Poster	
6		collection and formed the opinion that the Debtor's Owned Poster collection is worth in	
7		excess of \$26 million at retail prices. The Debtor believes that the wholesale value of the poster collection is in excess of \$13 million."	
8	26		
9	26.	The Debtor stated in its Disclosure Statement for its Amended Plan of Reorganization filed on January 6, 2016 that its valuation of its "Owned"	Debtor's Disclosure Statement, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1573, pg. 8, line
10		Posters" was \$13 Million. At the time that Debtor filed this Disclosure Statement, the	19.
11		Debtor was under the control of Douglas Chrismas.	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
12			acove.
13		The statements in the Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure Statement subscribed to by Douglas Chrismas support a	
14		finding that the Debtor's "Owned Posters" refer to the same Art Posters referred to in his prior	
15		August 5, 2013 Declaration describing the pre- 1999 Art Posters as included in the Debtor's Art	
16		Poster Inventory, thus owned by the Debtor, not by Mr. Chrismas. The purpose of identifying the	
17		Debtor's Art Posters in its Amended Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure was to show that	
18		the Art Posters were available for sale to fund the Debtor's Plan of Reorganization to demonstrate	
19		the feasibility of the Debtor's Plan in order for the Plan to be confirmed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §	
20		1129.	
21	27.	On October 28, 2021, the Plan Agent's lawyer, Victor A. Sahn, wrote an email to Jonathan	Trial Exhibit P-27; see also, Plan Agent Motion,
22		Shenson, the lawyer for Douglas Chrismas, insisting that Shenson withdraw his October 27,	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 6, ¶ 8, lines
23		2021 email demanding that the Art Posters not be sold in consideration of information in the Direct	1-3.
24		Valuation Declaration and the Debtor's Chapter 11 Plan and Disclosure Statement.	
	28.	On Friday morning, October 29, Mr. Shenson,	Trial Exhibit P-29; see also,
26		Chrismas's counsel, wrote the following email to Mr. Sahn, the Plan Agent's counsel:	Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket
27 28		"Victor,	No. 2661, ¶ 8, pg. 6, lines 2-11, and Exhibit 8, batesstamped pg. 200.
- 11	-		

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1		I am withdrawing the statements made in my email to you and Carol on October 27, 2021	
2		at 2:07 pm (below).	
3		Thanks,	
4		Jonathan S. Shenson Shenson Law Group PC	
5		1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1000 Los Angeles, CA 90067	
6		Main: 310-400-5858 Direct: 424-233-0698	
7		www.shensonlawgroup.com"	
8	29.	At the time of exchange of correspondence between Mr. Shenson and Mr. Sahn	Trial Exhibit P-30; see also, Plan Agent Motion,
9		in Exhibits 5 and 8 to the Plan Agent Motion, the Plan Agent's counsel was not aware of Mr.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 6, ¶ 8, lines
10		Chrismas's direct correspondence to the Plan Agent's auctioneer on October 27 (Exhibit 3 to	13-22.
11		the Plan Agent Motion). As a result, an email was sent to Mr. Shenson on October 29, 2021 at	Exhibits 3, 5 and 8 to Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy
12		12:33 p.m. in which Mr. Sahn stated:	Court Docket No. 2661.
13		"Jonathan,	
14		Thank you for your email withdrawing your statements made to Carolyn Dye and me	
15		regarding the auction of the posters.	
16		Attached is a letter that Mr. Chrismas wrote directly to the auctioneer. We need a	
17 18		withdrawal of that letter in its entirety, by 2:00 p.m., from Mr. Chrismas and you as you	
		were copied on the correspondence.	
19		Victor."	
20	30.	Mr. Shenson promptly responded to Mr. Sahn's email request and wrote an email	Trial Exhibit P-31; see also, Plan Agent Motion,
21		which stated: "I did not receive a copy of the letter sent to Tannenbaum. I have asked Douglas	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 6, ¶ 9, lines
22		to withdraw the letter ASAP and no later than 2 pm."	25-27, and Exhibit 10 attached thereto, bates-
23		piii.	stamped pg. 202.
24	31.	Douglas Chrismas claimed the Art Posters as his own personal property and not as the Debtor's	Trial Exhibit P-37; see also, Plan Agent Motion,
25		property. This is evident from the correspondence described above between Mr.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 8, ¶ 13; lines
26		Chrismas and his lawyer, Jonathan Shenson, and the Plan Agent, his auctioneer, Jeff Tanenbaum,	16-22, and Exhibit 16 attached thereto, bates-
27		and his lawyer, Victor Sahn. On November 1,	stamped pg. 209.
28		2021, Mr. Sahn wrote a clarifying email to Mr.Shenson which stated the following:	

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1		"Jonathan,	Findings of Fact Nos. 14-28 described above.
2			
3		For the purpose of clarity, I want to be clear that your client is not withdrawing his correspondence dated October 27, 2021	Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661.
4		addressed to Jeff Tanenbaum of which I attach a	
5		copy to this correspondence. I want to further be clear that this refusal applies to any art that Mr. Tanenbaum proposes to sell including	Response of Douglas Chrismas to Order to Show Cause, Bankruptcy Case
6		the Art Posters which have been the subject of our recent communications.	Docket No. 2671.
7		Thank you."	
8			
9		Subsequently, the Plan Agent filed his motion to hold Mr. Chrismas in contempt.	
10		On November 19, 2021, Mr. Chrismas filed a	
11		written response to the order to show cause issued on the Plan Agent's contempt motion,	
12		claiming ownership of the Art Posters. In his response to the order to show cause on the Plan Agent Motion, Mr. Chrismas asserted: "The	
13		Adversary [Proceeding] will ultimately resolve the question of who owns the Art Posters	
14		predating June 18, 1999. If the Plan Agent sells them prior to any such resolution, he does so at	
15		his peril." In other words, Mr. Chrismas asserted that the Bankruptcy Court should adjudicate the	
16		issue of ownership first in the above-captioned adversary proceeding.	
17		adversary proceeding.	
18	32.	The Plan Agent in his motion asks that the Bankruptcy Court interpret the confirmed Plan of	Plan Agent Motion, pg. 9, subparagraph C, lines 3-8;
19		Reorganization and the other Exhibits attached to the Plan Agent Motion, most specifically the	Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in
20		Order Confirming the Plan of Reorganization in this Chapter 11 bankruptcy Case, the Direct	Support of Debtor's Motion Assume
21		Valuation Declaration and Exhibit 1 to that Declaration, which identifies the inventory of Art	Master Lease for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Plyd Lea
22		Posters which the Plan Agent is endeavoring to sell and that the Plan Agent may continue	Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036,
23		forward with that sale based upon a determination that the Art Posters are the Debtor's Property.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266.
24		2 constatioperg.	

Findings of Fact Regarding Prior Sales of Art Posters by the Debtor Which Are the Subject of this Dispute as Set Forth in the "Declaration of Sam Leslie In Support of: (1) Motion for Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt for Violation of Terms and Conditions of Confirmed Plan of Reorganization; and (2) To Enforce Terms and Conditions of Confirmed Reorganization Plan" (Docket No. 2688 in Bankruptcy Case)

5			
6		FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
7	33.	The document entitled "Ace Gallery Poster Inventory 2.15.13" attached as Exhibit 1 to	Trial Exhibit P-1; Exhibit 1 to Leslie Poster Dec.,
8		Declaration of Sam Leslie in Support of the Plan Agent Motion (also, Trial Exhibit P-1) is the	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2688, ¶¶ 2, 3, 28-40,
9		Debtor's Art Poster Inventory as of February 15, 2013, as identified by Douglas Chrismas in his	and Exhibit 1 attached thereto.
10		declaration under penalty of perjury filed in this bankruptcy case on August 5, 2013 (Bankruptcy	Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in
11		Case Docket No. 266). The document is credible evidence which supports the Plan Agent's	Support of Debtor's Motion [to] Assume Master Lease
12		position that the Art Posters which are the subject of the current dispute between the parties all	for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Blvd., Los
13		constitute the Debtor's property which the Plan Agent may sell under the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this Bankruptcy Case.	Angeles, CA 90036 and Exhibit 1 attached thereto.
14		Reorganization in this Bankruptey Case.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266.
15		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	Finding of Fact No. 1
16		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	above.
17		over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
18		The court infers from these circumstances that	
19		this document dated February 15, 2013 was a business record of the Debtor created and used	
20		for the Debtor as its inventory of owned art posters while under the control of Douglas	
21		Chrismas before the Debtor filed its bankruptcy petition in this case on February 19, 2013.	
22			
23	34.	Debtor's books and records included another document listing its inventory of its owned Art	Trial Exhibit P-2; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 4, 28-40
24		Posters (Trial Exhibit P-2 filed as Exhibit 2 to the Leslie Poster Declaration). The discovery of this	and Exhibit 2 attached thereto.
25		inventory is derived from the investigative work done by the Plan Agent and his staff and is a	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
26		document taken from the regularly maintained books and records of the Debtor. This inventory	40070.
27		is dated April 23, 2013, approximately two months after the Debtor's Chapter 11 bankruptcy	
28		petition was filed and about four months prior to the Declaration of Douglas Chrismas dated	

- 1			
1		August 5, 2013 (Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266 in the Bankruptcy Case) which valued the	
2		same Art Posters at \$13 Million (see Bankruptcy	
3		Case Docket No. 2682, pages 16 of 65, Bates stamped page no. 15, lines 25-26). The	
4		document is the Debtor's own inventory of the Art Posters which further substantiates the Art	
5		Posters as the Debtor's property, which inventory was prepared by and for the Debtor during the	
6		time the Debtor was under Mr. Chrismas's control after the Debtor filed its bankruptcy	
7		petition in this case and before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization.	
8			
9	35.	As a regular part of its business, Debtor sold Art Posters, including the pre-1999 Art Posters, as	Trial Exhibit P-3; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 5, 28-40,
10		shown by Trial Exhibit P-3 filed as Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is a blank invoice/hill of selectified "A as Gallery Poster"	and Exhibit 3 attached.thereto. ⁷
11		invoice/bill of sale entitled "Ace Gallery Poster Sales" on the Debtor's stationery showing the availability for purchase of all of the same	Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in
12		posters that were identified as the Debtor's posters in the Declaration of Douglas Chrismas	Support of Debtor's Motion [to] Assume Master Lease
13		dated August 5, 2013 and Exhibit 1 attached thereto, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266,	for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Blvd., Los
14		discussed above, and contains the same posters as are shown on the Debtor's inventory of its Art	Angeles, CA 90036 and Exhibit 1 attached thereto.
15		Posters from April 2013 which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 to the Leslie Poster Declaration.	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266.
16			Finding of Fact No. 1
17		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	above.
18		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
19		date of his appointment.	
20		Although the document is an undated blank invoice/bill of sale, the court infers from these	
21		circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor created and used by the	
22		Debtor to sell the Art Posters in the regular conduct of its business while under the control of	
23		Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy	
24		The state of the s	

In paragraph 5 of his declaration, the Plan Agent referred to forensic accounting investigative work of him and his staff in the preceding paragraphs of his declaration as "described above," but in paragraph 3 of the declaration, he stated that he "will leave the facts which verify the veracity and provenance of the records described below until the end of this Declaration" (i.e., paragraphs 28-40). Thus, the declaration is a little confusing and circuitous in describing the work of the Plan Agent and his staff in authenticating business records of the Debtor, including this blank invoice/bill of sale form for the Art Posters.

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1		case.	
2			
3	36.	Debtor actually sold pre-1999 Art Posters in the regular course of its business as shown by Trial Exhibit P-4 filed as Exhibit 4 to the Leslie Poster	Trial Exhibit P-4; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 6, 28-40 and Exhibit 4 attached
4 5		Declaration, which is an invoice showing a sale of the Debtor's inventory of Art Posters. Exhibit	thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
6		4 is a completed sales invoice and bill of sale of one of Debtor's Art Posters to Gordon Anderson. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were	above.
7		deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank. This poster was from a work by	
8		Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster that was created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Mr. Chrismas in these	
9		proceedings.	
10		This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
11		submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. Each of these is	
12		written on the stationery of the Debtor. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art	
13		Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings.	
14		This document is from the books and records of	
15		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
16		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
17		date of his appointment.	
18		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
19		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
20		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
21		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
22		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
23	37.	Another sale by the Debtor of the pre-1999 Art	Trial Exhibit P-5; Leslie
24		Posters is shown by Trial Exhibit P-5 filed as Exhibit 5 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 7, 28-40 and Exhibit 5 attached
25		is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created	thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
26		in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by	above.
27		Douglas Chrismas as owned by him. They were sold to Mr. Robert Riskin in Greenwich,	
28		Connecticut. This document is on the Debtor's	

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1 2		stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
3		Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr.	
4 5		Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's	
		bank account at City National Bank. This document is from the books and records of	
6 7		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
8		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
9		date of his appointment.	
10		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the	
11		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
12		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
13		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
14		,	
- 11	38.	A further sale of the pre-1999 Art Posters by the	Trial Exhibit P-6; Leslie
15		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached
15 16		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto.
		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached
16		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20 21		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank. This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank. This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-6 filed as Exhibit 6 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for two Art Posters from two works by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, posters which were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Mr. Christopher Bridgeman in Norfolk, Virginia. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank. This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 8, 28-40 and Exhibit 6 attached thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1

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1 2		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
3		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
5		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
6	39.	A further example of the Debtor's sales of the pre-1999 Art Posters is shown by Trial Exhibit P-	Trial Exhibit P-7; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 9, 28-40
7		7 filed as Exhibit 7 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale	and Exhibit 7 attached thereto.
8 9		for one Art Poster from a work by Andy Warhol created in 1976, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
10		by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. It was sold to Mr. Joseph Eagleeye in Carefree,	
11		Arizona. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of	
12		sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences that	
13		Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in	
14		these proceedings.	
15 16		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
17		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
18		Although the document is a completed but	
19		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the	
20		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
22		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
23		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
24	40.	An additional sale of the pre-1999 Art Posters by	Trial Exhibit P-8; Leslie
25		the Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-8 filed as Exhibit 8 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 10, 28-40 and Exhibit 9 attached
26		is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster from a work by Andy Warhol created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are	thereto. Finding of Fact No. 1
27		the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in this proceeding. It was sold to Mr.	above.
28		Ken Stephens of Vancouver, British Columbia.	

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1		This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
2		submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further	
3		evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his	
4		property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into	
5		the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
6		This document is from the books and records of	
7		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
8		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
9		date of his appointment.	
10		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
11		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
12		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
13		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
14		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
15	41.	Another sale by the Debtor of a pre-1999 Art Poster is shown by Trial Exhibit P-9 filed as	Trial Exhibit P-9; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 11 28-40
16		Exhibit 9 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which	and Exhibit 9 attached
17		is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster, from Ed Moses created in 2012. 8 It was sold to	thereto.
18		Mr. Bradley Ward c/o Access Worldwide of North Charleston, South Carolina. It is not a pre-	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
19		1999 Art Poster which Douglas Chrismas claims ownership. This document is on the Debtor's	
20		stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy	
21		Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
		Declaration, which lists both pre- and post-1999 Art Posters available for sale by the Debtor. This	
22		poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City	
23		National Bank.	
24		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
25		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	
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⁸ Mr. Chrismas does not claim ownership of Art Posters created after the Debtor was formed in 1999, such as this poster by Ed Moses created in 2012, which he agrees is owned by the Debtor. However, what is probative is that the Debtor's invoice/bill of sale form lists both pre- and post-1999 Art Posters for sale, which indicates the Debtor's ownership of the Art Posters.

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1		over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
2		Although the document is a completed but	
3		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
4		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
5		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
6 7		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
	42.	Another degree and selections 1000 Aut	Trial Exhibit D 10. Loglia
8	42.	Another documented sale of a pre-1999 Art Poster by the Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P- 10 filed as Exhibit 10 to the Leslie Poster	Trial Exhibit P-10; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3,12, 28-40 and Exhibit 10 attached
9		Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster from a work by Robert	thereto.
11		Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art	
12		Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. It was sold to Mr. Pablo Perez Pineiro of Weehawken, New Jersey. This	
13		document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
14		submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale further	
15		evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his	
16		property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into	
17		the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
18		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
19		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
20		date of his appointment.	
21		Although the document is a completed but	
22		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the	
23		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
24		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
25		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
26			
27	43.	Another sale evidencing the Debtor's sales of pre-1999 Art Posters is shown by Trial Exhibit P-11 filed as Exhibit 11 to the Leslie Poster	Trial Exhibit P-11; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 13, 28-40 and Exhibit 11 attached
28		Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale	and Damon it attached

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1		for one Art Poster from a work by Robert	thereto.
2		Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art	Finding of Fact No. 1
		Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in	above.
3		these proceedings. It was sold to Mr.	
4		Christopher Bridgeman of Norfolk, Virginia.	
4		This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
5		submitted to this Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie	
		Poster Declaration. This sale further evidences	
6		that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in	
7		these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for	
		and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's	
8		bank account at City National Bank.	
9		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
10		and his staff during their investigation of the	
10		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	
11		over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
12		date of his appointment.	
12		Although the document is a completed but	
13		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
14		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
17		created and used for the Debtor while under the	
15		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
16		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
10		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
17			
18	44.	Another sale by the Debtor of a pre-1999 Robert	Trial Exhibit P-12; Leslie
		Rauschenberg Art Poster is shown by Trial	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 14, 28-40
19		Exhibit P-12 filed as Exhibit 12 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill	and Exhibit 12 attached thereto.
20		of sale for one Art Poster from a work by Robert	Finding of Fact No. 1
		Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art	above.
21		Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in	
22		these proceedings. It was sold to Mr. James	
		Yelland of Melbourne, Australia. This document	
23		is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to this	
24		Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
		Declaration. This sale further evidences that the Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr.	
25		Chrismas now says constitute his property in	
26		these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for	
		and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
27		·	
28		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
- 11		, and the state of	

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1		and his staff during their investigation of the	
2		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
3			
4		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the	
5		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
6		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
7		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
8		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
9	45.	An additional sale of a pre-1999 Robert Rauschenberg Art Poster by the Debtor is shown	Trial Exhibit P-13; Leslie
10		by Trial Exhibit P-13 filed as Exhibit 13 to the	Poster Dec., ¶ 3, ¶ 15, 28-40 and Exhibit 13 attached thereto.
11		Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster from a work by	Finding of Fact No. 1
12		Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the	above.
13		Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. It was sold to Mr. Michael	
14		Lalor of Dublin, Ireland. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same	
15		invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to this Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
16		Declaration. This sale is further evidence that Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr.	
17		Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for	
18		and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
19		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
20		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	
21		over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
22		date of his appointment.	
23		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
24		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
25		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
26		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
27		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
28	46.	A further sale of pre-1999 Art Posters by the Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-14 filed as	Trial Exhibit P-14; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 16, 28-40
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1		Exhibit 14 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art	and Exhibit 14 attached thereto.
2		Poster from a work by Dennis Hopper created in	Finding of Fact No. 1
3		2006. It is not a pre-1999 Art Poster which Douglas Chrismas claims ownership. It was sold	above.
4		to Mr. Richard Pajuelo of Los Angeles, California. This document is on the Debtor's	
5		stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy	
6		Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which lists both pre- and post-1999	
7		Art Posters available for sale by the Debtor. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were	
8		deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
9		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
10		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	
11		over the Debtor's business upon the effective date of his appointment.	
12		Although the document is a completed but	
13		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
14		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
15		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
16		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
17		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
18	47.	Another sale of a pre-1999 Art Poster by the Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-15 filed as	Trial Exhibit P-15; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 17, 28-40
19		Exhibit 15 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art	and Exhibit 15 attached thereto.
20		Poster from a work by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior	Finding of Fact No. 1
21		to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. It	above.
22		was sold to Mr. Thomas Heidig of Basel, Switzerland. This document is on the Debtor's	
23		stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of	
24		Sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
25		Declaration. This sale further evidences that Debtor has sold the Art Posters that Mr.	
26		Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for	
27		and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
28		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	

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1		and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took	
2		over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
3		date of his appointment.	
4		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
5		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
6		created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
7		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
8		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
9	48.	Yet another sale of a pre-1999 Art Poster by	Trial Exhibit P-16; Leslie
10		Robert Rauschenberg is shown by Trial Exhibit P-16 filed as Exhibit 16 to the Leslie Poster	Poster Dec., ¶ 3, 18, 28-40 and Exhibit 16 attached
11		Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster from a work by Robert	thereto.
12		Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
		Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in	
13		these proceedings. It was sold to Lillian Lowe and Peter Lowe of Victoria, Australia. This	
14		document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
15		submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster Declaration. This sale is	
16		additional evidence that Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says	
17		constitute his property in these proceedings. This	
18		poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City	
19		National Bank. This document is from the books and records of	
20		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
21		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
22		date of his appointment.	
23		Although the document is a completed but	
24		undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the court infers from these circumstances that the	
25		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
26		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
27		positio o milea o j the Deotor for its own account.	
28	49.	A further sale by the Debtor of a pre-1999 Art	Trial Exhibit P-17; Leslie

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1		Poster by Robert Rauschenberg is shown by Trial Exhibit P-17 filed as Exhibit 17 to the Leslie	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 19, 28-40 and Exhibit 17 attached
2		Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill	thereto.
3		of sale for one Art Poster from a work by Robert Rauschenberg created in 1977, a poster which	Finding of Fact No. 1
		was created prior to 1999 which are the Art	above.
4		Posters now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. It was sold to Mr. Krishna	
5		Kumar, Ph.D of Cambridge, Massachusetts. This	
6		document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was	
		submitted to this Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie	
7		Poster Declaration. This sale is additional evidence of a sale by the Debtor of the pre-1999	
8		Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas says constitute his	
9		property in connection with the Order to Show Cause and Motion to Interpret the confirmed Plan	
10		of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case. This	
10		poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City	
11		National Bank.	
12		This document is from the books and records of the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent	
13		and his staff during their investigation of the	
		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
14		date of his appointment.	
15			
16		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
		court infers from these circumstances that the	
17		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the	
18		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
19		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
20		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
	50.	Additional calca of mag 1000 Aut Doctors by the	Trial Exhibit D 10, Loglia
21	30.	Additional sales of pre-1999 Art Posters by the Debtor is evidenced by Trial Exhibit P-18 filed	Trial Exhibit P-18; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 20, 28-40
22		as Exhibit 18 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for three Art	and Exhibit 18 attached thereto.
23		Posters, one each from three works by Andy	Finding of Fact No. 1
		Warhol, two works from 1976 and one work from 1977, all posters which were created prior	above.
24		to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed	
25		by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. These posters were sold to Mr. William McNally	
26		of Los Angeles, CA. This document is on the	
		Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of sale form as was submitted to the	
27		Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie	
28		Poster Declaration. This is further evidence that Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr.	

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1 2		Chrismas now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
3		This document is from the books and records of	
4 5		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
6		date of his appointment.	
7		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
8		court infers from these circumstances that the	
9		document was a business record of the Debtor created and used for the Debtor while under the control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective	
10		Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
11		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
12	51.	Another sale of pre-1999 Art Posters by the	Trial Exhibit P-19; Leslie
13		Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-19 filed as Exhibit 19 to the Leslie Poster Declaration,	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 21, 28-40 and Exhibit 19 attached
14		which is an invoice and bill of sale for one Art Poster, from Andy Warhol which is dated in	thereto.
15		1977, a poster which was created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
16		Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. The poster was sold to Mr. David M. Kettner of New	
17		York City. This document is on the Debtor's stationery and is from the same invoice/bill of	
18		sale form as was submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in Exhibit 3 to the Leslie Poster	
19		Declaration. This sale also shows that Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas	
20		now says constitute his property in these proceedings. This poster sale was paid for and	
21		the funds were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
22		This document is from the books and records of	
23		the Debtor that was discovered by the Plan Agent and his staff during their investigation of the	
24		Debtor's operations when the Plan Agent took over the Debtor's business upon the effective	
25		date of his appointment.	
26		Although the document is a completed but undated invoice/bill of sale of Art Posters, the	
27		court infers from these circumstances that the document was a business record of the Debtor	
28		created and used for the Debtor while under the	

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1		control of Douglas Chrismas before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this	
2		bankruptcy case and reflects an actual sale of art	
3		posters owned by the Debtor for its own account.	
4	52.	Further evidence of the Debtor's sales of pre-	Trial Exhibit P-20; Leslie
5		1999 Art Posters is shown by Trial Exhibit P-20 filed as Exhibit 20 to the Leslie Poster	Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 22, 28-40 and Exhibit 20 attached
6		Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for sixty Art Posters by the Debtor, dated	thereto.
7		September 13, 2012. There are five posters of each of five works by Andy Warhol, five posters	Finding of Fact No. 1 above.
8		of one work by Robert Lichtenstein, five posters	
		of each of five works by Robert Rauschenberg, five posters of one work by Sam Francis. These	
9		twelve groups of five Art Posters are from works dating from 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 and	
10		1989, all of these works were created prior to 1999 which are the Art Posters now claimed by	
11		Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were sold to Rare Posters located in Brooklyn,	
12		New York. Rare Posters paid a total of	
13		\$16,900.00 for these sixty (60) Art Posters. This document is on the Debtor's stationery that it	
14		used for art sales. This invoice is signed by Douglas Chrismas as "Director and Chief	
15		Curator" of Ace Gallery Los Angeles, the Debtor's business name, and dated "Sep 13/12."	
16		These sales also shown that the Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says	
17		constitute his property in these proceedings. These poster sales were paid for and the funds	
18		were deposited into the Debtor's bank account at City National Bank. The Debtor was under the	
19		control of Douglas Chrismas at the time of these	
20		poster sales, which occurred before the Debtor filed its bankruptcy petition in this case.	
21	53.	Additional sales of pre-1999 Art Posters by the Debtor is shown by Trial Exhibit P-21 filed as	Trial Exhibit P-21; Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 3, 23, 28-40
22		Exhibit 21 to the Leslie Poster Declaration, which is an invoice and bill of sale for the sale of	and Exhibit 21 attached thereto.
23		fifty-five Art Posters, dated January 15, 2015. There are ten posters of a work by Roy	Finding of Fact No. 1
24		Lichtenstein, ten posters of each of three works	above.
25		by Andy Warhol, ten posters of each of two works by Robert Rauschenberg, and five posters	
26		of a work by Robert Rauschenberg. These six groups of Art Posters are from works created in	
27		1976, 1977 and 1978, all of the works were created prior to 1999, which are the Art Posters	
28		now claimed by Douglas Chrismas in these proceedings. They were also sold to Rare Posters	

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- 1		
1	located in Brooklyn, New York. Rare Posters paid a total of \$12,500.00 for these fifty-five (55)	
2	Art Posters. This document is on the Debtor's	
3	stationery that it used for art sales. The invoice is unsigned, but lists "Douglas Chrismas, Director	
4	and Chief Curator" on the signature block on the invoice form. These sales also show that the	
5	Debtor has sold the same Art Posters that Mr. Chrismas now says constitute his property in	
6	these proceedings. These poster sales were paid for and the funds were deposited into the	
7	Debtor's bank account at City National Bank.	
8	The Debtor was under the control of Douglas	
9	Chrismas at the time of these poster sales, which occurred after the Debtor filed its bankruptcy	
10	petition in this case, but before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in this case.	
11		

Findings Regarding "Notice of Filing by Plan Agent of Exhibits P-41 through P-48 in Connection with the Contested Hearing on Art Posters Dispute Between Douglas Chrismas and Plan Agent" (Docket No. 2696 in Adversary Proceeding)

	FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
54.	On August 1, 2001, Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc., an entity wholly owned by Mr. Chrismas, sold its art inventory, including Art Posters, to the Debtor as evidenced by Trial Exhibit P-41, which is a "Bill of Sale" from Douglas Chrismas Fine Art Inc. to Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century of certain artwork and other assets which is dated August 1, 2001. The Bill of Sale includes among the assets transferred from Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts to Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century certain "Assorted Posters" which is item number 26 on bates-stamped page 9 with a listed value of \$5,000.00. The Bill of Sale is signed by Douglas Chrismas for Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century on August 1, 2001. The Bill of Sale describes "Inventory of Artwork as of August 1, 2001" on bates-stamped pages 7-9 being sold as having a value of \$51,145.75. However, Mr. Chrismas was on both sides of the sales transaction as he was the principal and sole owner of Douglas Chrismas Fine Art Inc. as well as the principal and sole owner of Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century, the Debtor, as he testified at trial. Although the "Assorted Posters" listed in the Bill	Trial Exhibit P-41, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2696, bates-stamped pgs. 4-9. Trial Testimony of Douglas Chrismas, January 6, 2022 (testimony did not dispute authenticity of the document, but contended that the sale transaction never consummated because his solely owned buyer entity failed to perform under the sale agreement with his solely owned seller entity). See also, California Civil Code § 1000.

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- 11			
1		of Sale are not specifically identified, the Bill of Sale evidences a sales transaction in which	
2		Douglas Chrismas through his solely owned entity, Douglas Chrismas Fine Art Inc., sold Art	
3		Posters in 2001, which probably included pre-	
4		1999 Art Posters, transferred Art Posters to the Debtor. This evidence supports a finding that	
5		Douglas Chrismas transferred pre-1999 Art Posters to the Debtor, contrary to his assertions	
6		that there was never any such transfer.	
7	55.	The Debtor posted its purchase on August 1,	Trial Exhibit P-44; Notice
8		2001 of the artwork, including "Assorted Posters," for \$51,145.75 from Douglas Chrismas	of Filing of Trial Exhibits P-41 through P-48,
9		Fine Arts Inc., on its accounting books and records as shown in Trial Exhibit P-44, which is	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2696, bates-stamped
10		a page from the Detail Trial Balance of the Debtor Art & Architecture Books of the 21st	pg. 15.
11		Century which is page 67 of the Detail Trial Balance ("DTB") of the Debtor covering the	See also, California Civil Code § 1000.
12		period June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002. 9 One of the entries on the page of the Detail Trial	
13		Balance is an entry under category 1-301, "Artwork" showing an entry on the Debtor's DTB	
14		of \$51,145.75 on August 1, 2001, the same date as the Bill of Sale identified in Finding of Fact	
15		No. 53 above which shows a transfer of artwork from Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts to Art &	
16		Architecture Books of the 21 st Century for \$51,145.75.	
17		This evidence corroborates the sale and transfer	
18		of Art Posters to the Debtor from Douglas Chrismas though his wholly owned entity,	
19		Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc., and rebuts his assertions that the sale and transfer did not occur	
		due to a failure of consideration, that is, the Debtor had promised to rent space at its business	
20		premises to Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc., but had not sufficiently prepared the rented premises	
21		for occupancy by Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc. Having considered Douglas Chrismas's	
22		testimony on this point and the posting of the sale and transfer transactions on the Debtor's	
23		accounting books and records when the Debtor	
24	L	was under his control, the court finds that his	

⁹ Trial Exhibit P-44, which is page 67 from the Debtor's Detail Trial Balance ("DTB") covering the period June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002, showing the posting of the purchase transaction for the transfer of the artwork from Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc. was received into evidence after counsel for the Plan Agent provided a true and correct copy of the entire Detail Trial Balance for that period to counsel for Douglas Chrismas. The entire Detail Trial Balance for this period of time was marked for identification as Trial Exhibit P-47, but was not received into evidence.

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- 1				
1 2			testimony twenty years later that the sale and transfer did not occur is not credible, and the court finds that the sale and transfer of the Art	
3			Posters from his controlled entity to the Debtor did occur as corroborated by the Bill of Sale and	
4			Detailed Trial Balance entry posting the transaction. The evidence of the Bill of Sale and	
5			Detailed Trial Balance entry support a finding that the Debtor acquired the pre-1999 Art Posters	
6			from Douglas Chrismas by transfer.	
7		56.	On December 7, 2004, Douglas Chrismas filed a	Petition, In re Douglas
8			personal bankruptcy case under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. as shown by Trial Exhibit P-42, which is the voluntary Chapter 11	James Chrismas, No. LA- 04-35726-BR Chapter 11 (Bankr. C.D. Cal., filed
9			Bankruptcy Petition for Douglas James Chrismas dated December 7, 2004 filed as Bankruptcy	Dec. 7, 2004), Trial Exhibit P-42; Notice of Filing of
10			Case Number LA 04-35276-BR Chapter 11, United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District	Trial Exhibits P-41 through P-48, Bankruptcy Case
11			of California. Mr. Chrismas signed the petition under a declaration under penalty of perjury that	Docket No. 2696, batesstamped pgs. 10-11.
12			the information provided in the petition was true and correct.	
13				
14		57.	Douglas Chrismas did not list the pre-1999 Art Posters as assets on his bankruptcy schedules to	Testimony of Douglas Chrismas, January 6, 2022.
15			his bankruptcy petition in his 2004 personal bankruptcy case. Mr. Chrismas admitted in his	Schedule B-Personal Property, <i>In re Douglas</i>
16			trial testimony that he did not list the Art Posters as personal property assets on Schedule B-	James Chrismas, No. LA- 04-35726-BR Chapter 11
17			Personal Property (Trial Exhibit P-43). ¹⁰ Under Question Number 5, "Books, pictures and other	(Bankr. C.D. Cal., filed Dec. 22, 2004), Trial
18			art objects, antiques, stamp, coin, record, tape, compact disc, and other collections or	Exhibit P-43; Notice of Filing of Trial Exhibits P-
19			collectibles," he did not specifically describe these items, which he listed an aggregate value of	41 through P-48, Bankruptcy Case Docket
20 21			\$5,000.00. He testified at trial that this item did not describe Art Posters because "a poster is a	No. 2696, bates-stamped pgs. 12-14.
21 22			poster" and none of the objects listed in Question Number 5 applied to posters in his view. He also	Trial Testimony of Douglas
23			testified that the value of the Art Posters he claims to own were "definitely" worth more than	Chrismas, January 6, 2022.
24			\$5,000.00 and could have been worth \$13 million." Under Question Number 28, "Inventory", Mr. Chrismas listed "None." Under	
<u>~</u> T			myemory, wir. Christias fisted frome. Under	

¹⁰ Douglas Chrismas filed his voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on December 7, 2004, consisting of two pages, but without the schedules of assets and liabilities and statement of financial affairs, which are also considered parts of the bankruptcy petition. He filed his asset schedules later on December 22, 2004. Although the asset schedules were filed separately from the petition, the schedules were subject to his attestation in the petition under penalty of perjury that the information contained was true and correct.

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1 2			Question Number 33, "Other personal property of any kind not already listed. Itemize", Mr. Chrismas listed "None." The total value of	
3			personal property assets owned by Mr. Chrismas listed by him on his Schedule B-Personal Property as of the date of the filing of his 2004	
4			bankruptcy petition was \$9,200.00.	
5				
6		8.	Douglas Chrismas testified at trial that the Art Posters which are the subject of this dispute were	Trial Testimony of Douglas Chrismas, January 6, 2022.
7			located at the business premises of the Debtor at 5514 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California at the time his personal Chapter 11	
8			bankruptcy case was filed in 2004 and afterwards.	
9			and wards.	
10	5	9.	On March 16, 2005, the Bankruptcy Court dismissed the personal bankruptcy case of	Trial Exhibit P-46; Notice of Filing of Trial Exhibits
11			Douglas Chrismas that he had filed in 2004 as shown by Trial Exhibit P-46, which is the Order	P-41 through P-48, Bankruptcy Case Docket
12			Granting Motion of the United States Trustee to Dismiss Case with One Hundred Eighty Day	No. 2696, bates-stamped pgs. 25-29.
13			Prohibition Against Refiling, pertaining to the	μgs. 23-27.
14			dismissal of Chapter 11 case of Douglas James Chrismas which is dated March 16, 2005.	
15				

Findings Regarding the Specific Allegations and Testimony of Douglas Chrismas Related to His Claim of Ownership of the Art Posters

	FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
60.	In his First Amended Counter-Complaint filed against the Plan Agent in the above-captioned adversary proceeding, Douglas Chrismas alleges that he owns certain personal property described as follows: "29) Any and all art works, posters, art books, photos and film(s) dealing with artworks or artists (which were exhibited or sold), historical materials documenting or evidencing art exhibitions (including, without limitation, invitations, press releases, correspondence, memorabilia and newspaper and other articles), photos (negatives and prints), film and/or films that deal with artworks or artists exhibited and/or sold, architectural models, images and blueprints (including photographs and documentation concerning any architecture), art records, Books & Records and furniture, equipment and other	First Amended Counter-Complaint by Douglas Chrismas against Sam Leslie as Plan Agent ("First Amended Counter-Complaint"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640, Schedule 1, ¶ 29.

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1 2 3 4 5		personal property; in each case, to the extent such Art Asset is dated (or denotes a date) prior to June 18, 1999. 'Books & Records' means and includes books, records, accounts, contracts, documents, bank records, consignment sheets, invoices, receipts, memoranda, papers, correspondence, images, pictures, transparencies and computer and other electronic data."	
6	61.	In his Declaration of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Response to Order to Show Cause	Declaration of Douglas Chrismas in Support of
7		Why Douglas Chrismas Should Not Be Held in Contempt of Court for Violations of the Order Confirming Second Amended Plan	Response to Order to Show Cause Why Douglas Chrismas Should Not Be
8		of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Mr. Chrismas stated "I do not dispute	Held in Contempt of Court for Violations of the Order
9		that the Preformation Posters were included in the Valuation Declaration as inventory of the	Confirming Second Amended Plan
10		Debtor; but, in hindsight, I recognize my inclusion of these posters was not sufficiently explained. I should have explained that I would	of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors ("Response Declaration"),
12		be transferring the Preformation Posters (and any other assets denoted on the inventory lists) to the	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2675, pg. 2, ¶ 4, lines
13		Debtor if and when the AERC lease was assumed." ("Response Declaration")	21-25.
14	62.	In the Declaration of Douglas Chrismas in	Response Declaration,
15		Support of Response to Order to Show Cause Why Douglas Chrismas Should Not Be Held in Contempt of Court for Violations of the Order	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2675, pg. 3, ¶ 6, lines 3-6.
16		Confirming Second Amended Plan of the Official Committee of Unsecured	0.
17		Creditors, Mr. Chrismas stated: "In connection with the Debtor's motion to assume the AERC	
18 19		lease, I was prepared to transfer certain personal assets to the Debtor, including Preformation	
20		Posters, to facilitate the Debtor's ability to assume the AERC Lease. However, I did not transfer any such assets because the Court did not	
21		authorize the Debtor's assumption."	
22	63.	In the Declaration of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Response to Order to Show Cause	Response Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket
23		Why Douglas Chrismas Should Not Be Held in Contempt of Court for Violations of the Order	No. 2675, pg. 3, ¶ 7, lines 7-10.
24		Confirming Second Amended Plan of the Official Committee of Unsecured	
25		Creditors, Mr. Chrismas stated: "I was also prepared to transfer certain personal assets to the	
26		Debtor in connection with the Debtor's plan of reorganization, which the Court did not confirm.	
27		To the extent the disclosure statement describing the Debtor's Plan included any of my personal assets (including the Preformation Posters) for	
28		the liquidation analysis, it was in error."	

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.		1	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	64.	The testimony of Douglas Chrismas in his declaration in response to the Plan Agent Motion that while he acknowledged that he included the pre-1999 Art Posters in his valuation of the Debtor's art assets in his August 5, 2013 declaration, he did not "sufficiently explain" the inclusion of the posters in his valuation because he had not actually transferred the posters to the Debtor, but meant to do so if the Bankruptcy Court granted the Debtor's motion to assume the lease with AERC, flatly contradicts the unequivocal inclusion of the Art Posters in the valuation of the Debtor's owned art assets. That is, Douglas Chrismas in his August 5, 2013 declaration stated under penalty of perjury that the pre-1999 Art Posters were owned by the Debtor. Specifically, in his declaration entitled Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Debtor's Motion [to] Assume Master Lease for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036, Mr. Chrismas stated as follows: 2. I am the President of Art And Architecture Books Of The 21st Century, dba Ace Gallery, chapter 11 debtor and debtor-in-possession (the 'Debtor'). As President of the Debtor, I am involved in virtually all aspects of the Debtor's operations and financial condition. I am also the Director and Chief Curator of the Debtor's contemporary art work, including posters, in connection with the trial on the Debtor's Contemporary art work, including posters, in connection with the trial on the Debtor's Motion to Assume Master Lease as to the real property located at 5500 Wilshire Boulvard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. **** 13. During February, March, and April 2013, my staff and I also undertook the task of compiling an inventory of the Debtor's poster collection and formed the opinion that the Debtor's poster collection is worth in excess of \$26 million at retail prices. The Debtor is marketing and selling these posters to museums, poster stores, and other galleries that engage in retail sales of posters. The wholesale value of the poster collec	Trial Exhibit P-22; Exhibit 6 to Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, Bates-Stamped pgs. 061-068, especially Bates-Stamped pg. 065, lines 6-12, citing and quoting, Direct Valuation Testimony of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Debtor's Motion to Assume Master Lease for Real Property at 5500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 266. Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 2 and 3 and Exhibits 2 and 3 attached thereto. See Russell, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, § 801.12 (online edition, November 2021 update), citing inter alia, Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2).

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1		A true and correct copy of the poster inventory (Trial Exhibit 53) is attached as Exhibit 1.	
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$		I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.	
4		Executed on August 5, 2013 at Los Angeles, California.	
5		/s/ DOUGLAS CHRISMAS"	
6		Exhibit 1 to this Declaration entitled Ace Gallery	
7		Poster Inventory "2.15.13" (i.e., February 15, 2013) listed a total of 62,500 art posters,	
8		including the pre-1999 Art Posters, which are at issue in these disputed litigation matters.	
9		The Bankruptcy Court finds that Mr. Chrismas's	
10		statements in this declaration filed in this bankruptcy case under penalty of perjury are	
11		evidentiary admissions constituting relevant and admissible substantive evidence probative of	
12		ownership of the pre-1999 Art Posters and support a finding that the Debtor, not Mr.	
13		Chrismas, owns the pre-1999 Art Posters.	
14		The Bankruptcy Court accords great weight to these admissions of Douglas Chrismas in his	
15		declaration of August 5, 2013 because these admissions are corroborated by other evidence of	
16		representations made by him to this court in this bankruptcy case and in his personal bankruptcy	
17		case as well as other actions taken by him as further discussed herein.	
18			
19	65.	The claims of Douglas Chrismas of ownership of the pre-1999 Posters is also inconsistent with	Trial Exhibit P-48 (Notice of Filing of Exhibits P-41
20		representations made by him in a declaration under penalty of perjury that the Amended	through P-48, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2696,
21		Bankruptcy Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs of the Debtor Art and	bates-stamped pgs. 115- 131); Submission of
22		Architecture Books of the 21 st Century filed in this bankruptcy case on April 4, 2013 were true	Amended and Corrected Schedules of Assets and
23		and correct as follows:	Liabilities and Statement of Financial Affairs,
24		As to the Summary and Schedules: "I the President of the Art and Architecture	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 74.
25		"I, the President of the Art and Architecture Books of the 21 st Century named as debtor in this case, declare under penalty of perjury that I have	See Russell, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, §801.12
26		read the foregoing summary and schedules, consisting of sheets, and that they are true	(online edition, November 2021 update), citing inter
27		and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.	alia, Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2).
28		Date: 04/04/13 /s/ Douglas Chrismas".	2.146.160 001(4)(2).
- 1			I

1	As to the Statement of Financial Affairs:	:
2	"I declare under penalty of perjury that I	
3	read the answers contained in the forego statement of financial affairs and any att	achments
4	thereto and that they are true and correct best of my knowledge, information and	
5	Date: 04/04.13 /s/ Douglas Chrismas Douglas Chrismas, Pres	ridant"
6		
7	In the Debtor's Amended Statement of F Affairs that Mr. Christmas had attested t	o, the
8	Debtor was asked: Question Number 14 "Property Held for Another Person." Th	ne e
9	question is "List all property owned by a person that the debtor holds or controls."	' The
10	answer provided stated: "See Attached For 14." Attached Rider 14 is found at page	e 51 of 52
11	in the document listed artworks by third artists held by the Debtor at its business	premises
12	at 5514 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angele 90036. None of those works held for this	ird
13	parties identifies artworks or other proper claimed to be owned by Mr. Chrismas as	s he is
14	not identified as an owner of property he Debtor for him in Rider 14 or otherwise	
15	response to the Question 14 asking for identification of Property Held for Anoth	her.
16	The Bankruptcy Court finds that Mr. Ch	rismas's
17	statements in this declaration filed in this bankruptcy case under penalty of perjury	s
18	attesting to the truth and accuracy of the representations in its Amended Statemer	Debtor's
19	Financial Affairs that it held property for and not Mr. Chrismas, are evidentiary ac	r others,
20	constituting relevant and admissible sub- evidence probative of ownership of the p	
21	Art Posters and support a finding that the not Mr. Chrismas, owns the pre-1999 Ar	e Debtor,
22	because if the Debtor was holding prope owned by Mr. Chrismas, it should have	rty
23	such property in answer to Question 14 a about Property Held by the Debtor for A	asking
24	The Bankruptcy Court accords great wei	
25	these admissions of Douglas Chrismas in subscribing to the Debtor's bankruptcy p	n
26	including the Statement of Financial Aff in April 2013, that does not list the Art F	fairs filed
27	property held by the Debtor for another, himself, even though he had valued the	namely
28	Posters of having a wholesale value of \$ million in his August 5, 2013 filed with	13

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1		Bankruptcy Court later that year as these admissions are corroborated by other evidence of	
2		representations made by him to this court in this bankruptcy case and in his personal bankruptcy	
3		case as well as other actions taken by him as further discussed herein.	
4			
5	66.	Before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case,	Findings of Fact Nos. 1, 20, 21, 33, 34 above.
6		April 6, 2016, when the Debtor was under the control of Douglas Chrismas, the Debtor in its	21, 33, 31 400 .
7		regular course of business conducted inventories of its owned art posters in February 2013 and	
8		April 2013, which specifically listed the pre-1999 Art Posters as part of its inventory of owned	
9		posters. The February 2013 inventory of the Debtor's owned posters specifically listing the	
10		pre-1999 Art Posters was attached to and incorporated by reference by Douglas Chrismas	
11		in his August 5, 2013 Declaration valuing the Debtor's Art Poster Inventory at \$13 million	
12		wholesale in support of the Debtor's motion to assume the master lease at the premises at 5500	
13		Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036.	
14		The evidence of the Debtor's Art Poster Inventories of February and April 2013	
15		conducted while Douglas Chrismas was in control of the Debtor as its president and sole owner supports a finding that the pre-1999 Art	
16		Posters included in the Debtor's inventories were property of the Debtor when the inventories were	
17		conducted and afterwards.	
18		The Bankruptcy Court accords great weight to the adoptive admissions of Douglas Chrismas in	
19		subscribing to the Debtor's Amended Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure Statement	
20		because these admissions are corroborated by other evidence of representations made by him to	
21		this court in this bankruptcy case and in his personal bankruptcy case, including his August	
22		5, 2013 Declaration in particular, as well as other actions taken by him as further discussed herein.	
23		actions taken by min as further discussed herein.	
24	67.	Before the Effective Date of the Plan of Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case,	Findings of Fact Nos. 1, 35-53 above.
25		April 6, 2016, when the Debtor was under the control of Douglas Chrismas, the Debtor in its	
26		regular course of business sold pre-1999 Art Posters on its own account as reflected in the	
27		sixteen poster sales transactions identified above, including sales transactions in 2012 and 2015,	
28		use of a standard form bill of sale/invoice on the Debtor's stationery and letterhead specifically	

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1 2		listing the pre-1999 Art Posters as available for sale by the Debtor, and the sales proceeds from these sales transactions were deposited into the Debtor's bank accounts.	
3 4		Douglas Chrismas did not offer evidence at trial showing that the Debtor's poster sales transactions were not for its own account, but on	
5		his behalf on consignment or otherwise.	
7	68.	Douglas Chrismas did not disclose ownership of the pre-1999 Art Posters on his bankruptcy schedules to his bankruptcy petition in his 2004	Findings of Facts Nos. 56-58 above.
8 9		personal bankruptcy case as he admitted in his trial testimony that he did not list the Art Posters as personal property assets as he was required on	See Cusano v. Klein, 264 F.3d 936, 945-946 (9 th Cir.
10		Schedule B-Personal Property. In subscribing to his bankruptcy petition under	2001) (stating the Bankruptcy Code places an affirmative duty on a
11		penalty of perjury that the information contained in the petition, including the bankruptcy	bankruptcy debtor to schedule his assets and
12		schedules, Mr. Chrismas was representing that all of his owned assets were listed in his asset	liabilities and to prepare the schedules "carefully,
13		schedules, including all personal property, which include the pre-1999 Art Posters if he owned them as of the date of filing of his bankruptcy	completely, and accurately").
15		petition.	
16		Mr. Chrismas's failure to list the pre-1999 Art Posters on his personal property bankruptcy schedule in his 2004 personal bankruptcy case is	
17 18		a relevant and substantive evidentiary admission that supports a finding that he no longer owned the posters as of the date of filing of the	
19		bankruptcy petition.	
20	69.	As indicated by the bill of sale of artwork, including posters, from Douglas Chrismas Fine	Findings of Fact Nos. 54 and 55 above.
21		Arts Inc. to the Debtor in 2001, Douglas Chrismas has transferred Art Posters to the	California Civil Code § 1000.
22		Debtor, though the bill of sale involved an indirect transfer from Mr. Chrismas to the Debtor	1000.
23		though his wholly owned entity, Douglas Chrismas Fine Arts Inc. Given the proximity of the transfer in time to the formation of the Debtor	
24 25		in 1999, the Bankruptcy Court infers that the transfer of posters included pre-1999 art posters.	
26		The transfer was recorded as a transaction on the Debtor's accounting books and records, which	
27		shows, and the Bankruptcy Court so finds, that the transfer actually occurred.	
28		•	

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1 2 3 4		This evidence supports a finding that Douglas Chrismas transferred art posters to the Debtor, contrary to his assertions in these proceedings that he never did so, and that the Debtor owns the art posters that he indirectly or directly transferred to it.	
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	70.	As Douglas Chrismas admitted in his testimony at trial, the pre-1999 Art Posters were located at the business premises of the Debtor at 5514 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California at the time his personal Chapter 11 bankruptcy case was filed in 2004 and afterwards, this evidentiary admission supports the finding that the posters were delivered and transferred to the Debtor, which corroborates the other evidence cited above showing the transfer of the posters to, and the ownership of the posters by, the Debtor, which it could and did sell in its ordinary course of business when the Debtor was under the control of Mr. Chrismas and after the Effective Date of the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case.	Findings of Fact Nos. 54, 55, 58 and 69 above. California Civil Code § 1000. See Skellinger v. England, 81 Cal.App. 176, 253 P. 191 (1927) (delivery may be evidence of transfer by gift).
14 15 16 17	71.	Based on the evidence described in the above Findings of Fact, including multiple representations by Douglas Chrismas to the Bankruptcy Court in this case and in his personal bankruptcy case that the Debtor owns the pre-1999 Art Posters, which the court considers to be evidentiary admissions, 11 the Bankruptcy Court	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-70 above. See Russell, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, § 801.12 (online edition, November 2021 update), citing inter

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¹¹ In this regard, the Bankruptcy Court considers the admissions in the statements of Douglas Chrismas that the Debtor owns the pre-1999 Art Posters to be evidentiary admissions as opposed to judicial admissions or grounds for judicial estoppel, rejecting the Plan Agent's arguments that Mr. Chrismas's statements were binding as judicial admissions or based on judicial estoppel. As the court stated in its tentative ruling of December 15, 2021 posted online on the court's website for the hearing on these matters on December 15, 2021: "After considering the moving and opposing papers, the court's tentative view is that application of the doctrines of judicial estoppel and judicial admission is problematic here because the party to the prior proceedings was not Chrismas in his individual capacity, but the debtor. The court and the plan agent in discussing the matter in prior hearings have apparently conflated Chrismas as debtor's representative and Chrismas in his individual capacity, which was perhaps understandable because Chrismas was the 100 percent shareholder and president of the debtor and his interests were aligned with the debtor in the preconfirmation phase of this case. Judicial estoppel applies to a party prevailing in a prior proceeding and taking advantage of a contrary position in a subsequent proceeding, see generally 1 Russell, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, §6:1 (2019-2020 edition), but in this situation, the parties are different. The debtor was the party in the prior matter of the adequate protection motion, and Chrismas in his individual capacity is the party in the adversary proceeding and in the contested

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matter of the plan agent's contempt motion. The court also preliminarily stated its tentative view that judicial estoppel was not applicable because the debtor/Chrismas did not prevail on the adequate protection motion because the favorable ruling by this court on that matter was reversed on appeal, so there is no apparently inconsistent result to warrant the potential application of judicial estoppel, strictly speaking. See 1 Russell, *Bankruptcy Evidence Manual*, §6:1, citing and quoting inter alia, *Moore v. United Services Auto. Ass'n*, 808 F.2d 1147, 1153 (5th Cir. 1987) ("The judicial estoppel doctrine requires 'an affirmative position to have been taken by the party to be estopped and requires that the position to have been successfully maintained.""). Whether or not the court has construed judicial estoppel too strictly may be a matter of controversy because parties in whatever capacity should not make contradictory statements based on what is to their advantage at a particular time in the case.

There are differences between judicial estoppel, judicial admission and evidentiary admission. *See Minish v. Hanuman Fellowship*, 214 Cal.App.4th 437, 448-459 (2013). The statements made in the Chrismas's declaration in support of the debtor's adequate protection motion were made on behalf of the debtor, which was the party to the prior matter in this case, and not Chrismas individually, and thus, may not be a judicial admission by him as the party in the prior proceeding. Whether or not the admissions made in the adequate protection motion or the bankruptcy schedules are considered made in a pleading may also be a subject of controversy because generally speaking, pleadings consist of a complaint, answer or other response to the complaint and pretrial statements. *See* Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7. As to bankruptcy schedules, it is an open question in the Ninth Circuit whether or not the doctrine of judicial admissions applies to bankruptcy schedules. *See In re Barker*, 839 F.3d 1189, 1195 (9th Cir. 2016). Thus, the court has doubts about the applicability of the doctrine of judicial admission here.

However, Chrismas's statements in debtor's filings in this case are evidentiary admissions because in whatever capacity, the statements were made against his interest in his individual capacity, that is, the posters were owned by the debtor, and not him. Nevertheless, as recognized in the case law, a party against whom an evidentiary admission is asserted has the right to show that the prior statements were inadvertently made or by mistake. Minish v. Hanuman Fellowship, 214 Cal. App. 4th at 457. Accordingly, the court finds that it is proper for Chrismas to have the opportunity in a contested evidentiary hearing to show that his prior evidentiary admissions were inadvertently made or mistaken. Thus, there appears to be a genuine factual issue regarding whether the prior admissions or the declaration assertions are the truth, which would necessitate an evidentiary hearing. Chrismas asserts that the dispute regarding ownership of the posters should be resolved in the pending adversary proceeding, while the plan agent asserts that the court may summarily dismiss Chrismas's statements without an evidentiary hearing and grant him declaratory relief that the debtor owns the posters. Given that the posters may be valuable as Chrismas had attested in the adequate protection motion declaration that they were worth \$13 million, the court is not inclined to determine ownership without an evidentiary hearing because of due process concerns. See Tyner v. Nicholson (In re Nicholson), 435 B.R. 622, 635-637 (9th Cir. BAP 2010), abrogated on other grounds as recognized in In re Tea Station Investment, Inc., No. 2:20-bk-14175 NB, 2021 WL 4988436 at *4 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2021). As stated by the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in *In re Nicholson*, "An evidentiary hearing is generally appropriate when there are disputed and material factual issues that the bankruptcy court cannot readily determine from the record. Thus, if a contested matter in a bankruptcy case 'cannot be decided without resolving a disputed material issue of fact, an evidentiary hearing must be held at which testimony of witnesses is taken in the same manner as testimony is taken in an adversary

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1 2 3 4 5			finds that Douglas Chrismas has not proven his claims of ownership of the pre-1999 Art Posters by a preponderance of the evidence, and the Bankruptcy Court further finds that the preponderance of the evidence shows that Douglas Chrismas transferred the pre-1999 Art Posters to the Debtor and that the Debtor, not Mr. Chrismas, owns the posters.	alia, Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2).
6	-	72.	The Bankruptcy Court specifically finds that the testimony given by Douglas Chrismas in these	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-71 above.
8			litigation matters recanting his unequivocal statements to the court under penalty of perjury in his Average 5, 2012, depleted in that the pre-	
9			in his August 5, 2013 declaration that the pre- 1999 Art Posters were part of the Debtor's Art Poster Inventory ¹² not to be credible as his	

proceeding or at trial in a district court civil case.' Fed. R. Bankr.P. 9014, Advisory Committee Note to 2002 Amendment. This advisory committee note 'makes clear that this requirement is intended to require a trial when there is a genuine factual dispute.' " 435 B.R. at 636 (citation omitted).

Moreover, the court needs to resolve whether or not it may grant declaratory relief over ownership as part of the civil contempt proceedings instead of resolving ownership in the claims in the adversary proceeding. If so, the court would set an evidentiary hearing to resolve the contempt motion. Chrismas's counterclaims for ownership of the posters for conversion, replevin and declaratory relief are noncore state law claims and require entry of final judgment by the district court as he has not consented to this court's jurisdiction to enter a final judgment. See Executive Benefits Insurance Agency v. Arkison, 573 U.S. 25, 34 (2014)."

Mr. Chrismas made definite statements in his August 5, 2013 declaration under penalty of perjury that he and his staff compiled an inventory of the Debtor's art posters, that he inspected and evaluated the Debtor's poster collection, that he attached a true and correct copy of the Debtor's poster inventory, which included the pre-1999 Art Posters, to his declaration, that he valued the Debtor's poster collection as having a wholesale value in excess of \$13 million and a retail value of \$26 million and that the Debtor was marketing and selling these posters. In his trial testimony, he admitted that he made these statements, but they were mistaken that they were his instead and that he only intended to give them to the Debtor if it succeeded in its motion to assume its lease. If it were true that Mr. Chrismas owned the posters, he could have stated in his declaration that he owned the posters and would pledge to transfer them to the Debtor to support its ability to provide adequate protection of the landlord's lease rights by providing the posters as assets to fund lease payments, but he did not so state, and instead, made outright, unequivocal representations that the Debtor owned the posters which had tremendous value sufficient to constitute adequate protection of the landlord's lease rights by assuring it that the Debtor had sufficient means to pay the rent. The Bankruptcy Court accords great weight to Mr. Chrismas's evidentiary admissions that the Debtor owned the pre-1999 Art Posters as such admissions are corroborated by other evidence of its ownership of the posters in selling the posters in its own name and of the transfer of posters to the Debtor from Mr. Chrismas through another of his wholly controlled entities, Doug Chrismas Fine Arts, Inc. Mr. Chrismas's uncorroborated current

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testimony is not supported by the evidentiary record in this case as shown by the other representations that he made under penalty of perjury in bankruptcy petitions and schedules and other representations in other filings in the Debtor's bankruptcy case and in his personal bankruptcy case that the Debtor owned the pre-1999 Art Posters and he did not own the posters and other actions on his part or by the Debtor under his supervision transferring Art Posters to the Debtor and selling the Art Posters by the Debtor for its own account.

Mr. Chrismas's testimony that there is no evidence of any transfer of posters to the Debtor is contradicted by his sale of posters through his wholly owned and controlled entity, Doug Chrismas Fine Art Inc. in 2001 and the accounting entries on the books and records of the Debtor, also his wholly owned and controlled entity, and the posters were delivered to and located at the Debtor's premises.

To accept Mr. Chrismas's testimony under penalty of perjury before the Bankruptcy Court that he still owns the pre-1999 Art Posters as true would mean that his other statements under penalty of perjury to the Bankruptcy Court were untrue, such as stating that the posters were part of Debtor's owned Art Poster Inventory in his August 5, 2013 declaration, that the Art Posters were not his personal property assets on his bankruptcy schedules in his 2004 personal bankruptcy case and that the Debtor was not holding on to the Art Posters as property owned by another on its bankruptcy schedules filed in 2013. To accept this testimony would be to allow Mr. Chrismas to assert whatever happens to be in his self-interest at the time, regardless of the truth.

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assertions that he still owns the posters lack credibility. Moreover, Mr. Chrismas's other testimony that he and his staff omitted listing the posters as his personal property assets on his bankruptcy schedules in his personal bankruptcy case in 2004, which would disclose his ownership of the posters, lacks credibility as his explanation of his failure to disclose these assets on his bankruptcy schedules was because he and his staff held off on disclosing those assets in his personal bankruptcy case because they already knew that the presiding judge was going to dismiss his bankruptcy case anyway does not make any sense. A more plausible explanation is that Mr.

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Chrismas did not list the posters as assets on the schedules for his personal bankruptcy case is that he transferred them to the Debtor and no longer owned them as reflected in his and the Debtor's treatment of the posters afterwards.

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Additional Findings Regarding Evidence that the Art Posters are the Debtor's Property and Not the Property of Douglas Chrismas

3		FINDING OF FACT	SUPPORTING
4			EVIDENCE
5	73.	The confirmed Plan of Reorganization ("Confirmed Plan" or "Second Amended Plan")	Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Re:
6		in this Bankruptcy Case supports the Plan Agent's position that he was empowered under the Confirmed Plan to sell the Art Posters as	Confirmation of Second Amended Plan of
7		necessary to satisfy the claims of creditors in this Bankruptcy Case.	Reorganization of Official Committee of Unsecured
8 9			Creditors as Modified, Bankruptcy Case Docket No.
10			1872, Exhibit 2 to Declaration of Victor A. Sahn and Request for
11			Judicial Notice Regarding Motion for Order to Show
12			Cause re: Contempt Against Douglas Chrismas and to
13			Enforce Terms And Conditions of Order
14			Confirming Committee's
15			Second Amended Plan of Reorganization [FRE 201]
16			("Sahn Declaration"), Bankruptcy Case Docket No.
17 18			2689.
19	74.	Douglas Chrismas agreed and consented to	Findings of Fact and
20		confirmation of the Confirmed Plan of Reorganization as found by the Bankruptcy Court in confirming the Plan of Reorganization	Conclusions of Law re Confirmation of Second
21		in the Debtor's Bankruptcy Case.	Amended Plan of Reorganization of Official
22			Committee of Unsecured Creditors as Modified,
23			Exhibit 2 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy
24			Case Docket No. 2689, Bates-Stamped pg. 50,
25			footnote 4, lines 26-28 ["As noted, the Plan does not
26			satisfy Section 1129(a)(8)
27			with respect to Class 8 (the insider equity interest in the
28			Debtor), but the Plan does

1	satisfy the provisions of
2	Section 1129(b) as outlined below and Chrismas agrees
3	to confirmation of the Plan in accordance with the
4	Debtor Plan Term Sheet; accordingly, satisfaction of
5	section 1129(a)(8) is not required."]
6	Id., Exhibit 2 to Sahn
7	Declaration, Bankruptcy
8	Case Docket No. 2689, Bates-Stamped pg. 56,
9	paragraph 37 to Bates- Stamped pg. 57, lines 1-
10	3["As noted, the Plan does not satisfy Section
11	1129(a)(8) with respect to
12	Class 8 (the insider equity interest in the Debtor), but
13	the Plan does satisfy the
14	provisions of Section 1129(b) as outlined below
15	and Chrismas agrees to confirmation of the Plan in
16	accordance with the Debtor Plan Term Sheet;
17	accordingly, satisfaction of section 1129(a)(8) is not
18	required."]
19	Id., Exhibit 2 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy
20	Case Docket No. 2689,
21	Bates-Stamped pg. 68, paragraph 76, lines 18-21
22	["All subsections of Section 1129(a) of the Bankruptcy
23	Code, except subsection (a)(8), have been satisfied.
24	Although Class 8 rejected
25	the Plan, Chrismas who is the Class 8 equity holder has
26	agreed to confirmation of the Plan in accordance with the
27	Debtor Plan Term Sheet (as
28	modified as set forth in the Plan)."]
20	1 iaii <i>)</i> . J

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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	75.	Douglas Chrismas consented to confirmation of the Second Amended Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case as indicated by his signatures on the Plan Term Sheet, which is attached as Exhibit 3 to the Memorandum of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Regarding Confirmation of Second Amended Plan of Reorganization ("Committee Memorandum") (Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1722) (Exhibit 4 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689, starting at Bates-Stamped pg. 93). Paragraph 4 of the Committee Memorandum (Exhibit 4 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689, beginning on Bates-Stamped pg. 95, lines 26-28 and to Bates-Stamped pg. 96, lines 1-28 and Bates-Stamped pg. 97, lines 1-6) recites the many issues which were resolved by the Term Sheet reached between the Creditors Committee, the Debtor, Eric Wilson, Telford Administrative Services, Wilson Administrative Services, and Douglas Chrismas, to allow confirmation of the Second Amended Plan of Reorganization proposed by the Creditors' Committee. Further, the Plan Term Sheet itself which was signed by Mr. Chrismas for the Debtor, for Ace New York, for Ace Museum, and for himself individually on February 2, 2016. The Committee Memorandum is a 72-page document and is found at Exhibit 4 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689 from Bates-Stamped pgs. 157-158. The Plan Term Sheet was also signed on behalf of Mr. Chrismas by his counsel, David Shemano, found on Bates-Stamped pg. 157-158. The Plan Term Sheet was also signed on behalf of Mr. Chrismas by his counsel, David Shemano, found on Bates-Stamped pg. 161.	Memorandum of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Regarding Confirmation of Second Amended Plan of Reorganization, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1722 ("Committee Memorandum"), Exhibit 4 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689, Bates-Stamped pg. 95, lines 26-28 to Bates- Stamped pg. 96, lines 1-28 to Bates-Stamped pg. 97, lines 1-6; Bates-Stamped pgs. 154-162.
22 23	76.	The Plan Confirmation Order states at paragraph 21 what the general import was of the Debtor Plan Term Sheet that the so-called Monetization Transaction did not occur, which it did not, the	Plan Confirmation Order, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1873, Exhibit 1 to Sahn
24 25		Plan Agent was to take control of the Debtor's business, its business locations, its artwork and all its other assets as permitted in the confirmed	Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689, Bates-Stamped pg. 32,
26		Plan of Reorganization and the order confirming the Plan.	paragraph 21, lines 8-16.
27 28	77.	The Plan Confirmation Order provides that until a "Plan Termination Event" (as defined in the Second Amended Plan of Reorganization) takes place, the Plan Agent (Mr. Leslie) was	Plan Confirmation Order, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1873, Exhibit 1 to Sahn

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2 3 4			empowered to "market, sell, and otherwise monetize the Owned Artwork, the Consigned Artwork, and the Owned Posters, including, but not limited to, any Owned Artwork, Consigned Artwork, or Owned Posters released to the Plan Agent after payment of secured creditors with liens against such Owned Artwork, Consigned	Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689, Bates-Stamped pg. 26, paragraph 7, lines 10-12 and Bates-Stamped pg. 27, lines 1-5.
5			Artwork, or Owned Posters in accordance with the Plan,"	
6		78.	The Amended Supplemental Disclosure Statement Based on Second Amended Plan of	Amended Supplemental Disclosure Statement Based
7			Reorganization of Official Committee of	on Second Amended Plan of
8			Unsecured Creditors additionally supports a finding that the Art Posters are the Debtor's	Reorganization of Official Committee of Unsecured
9 10			Property and that this representation was made to the Debtor's creditors and the Debtor's	Creditors, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1599-10, Exhibit
10			creditors voted for confirmation of the Committee's Plan based upon these	2 to Sahn Declaration, Bankruptcy Case Docket No.
12			representations.	2689, Bates-Stamped pgs. 165 thru 336, specifically
13				Bates-Stamped pg. 204.
		79.	The confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this bankruptcy case is binding on Douglas Chrismas	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-77 above.
14			as it was confirmed with his consent, and he is	
15			bound by its terms and conditions, including the authorization of the Plan Agent to sell the Art	
16			Posters owned by the Debtor.	
			Toblets owned by the Debtot.	
17	=		Tosters owned by the Debtor.	
17 18	-	9	Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings	before the Court
	-	9	<u> </u>	before the Court
18	-	9	<u> </u>	SUPPORTING
18 19 20			Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE
18 19		1.	Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter- Complaint ("FACC"),
18 19 20 21			Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century ("FACC"), asserting Four Counterclaims for	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter- Complaint ("FACC"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640, Adversary
18 19 20 21 22 23 24			Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter- Complaint ("FACC"), Adversary Proceeding
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25			Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century ("FACC"), asserting Four Counterclaims for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion and Replevin/Claim and Delivery. Attached to the FACC as Schedule 1 is a list of	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter-Complaint ("FACC"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640, Adversary Proceeding Number 2:15-ap-01679-RK (Docket No.
18 19 20 21 22 23 24		1.	Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century ("FACC"), asserting Four Counterclaims for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion and Replevin/Claim and Delivery. Attached to the FACC as Schedule 1 is a list of assets asserted by Douglas Chrismas to be his	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter- Complaint ("FACC"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640, Adversary Proceeding Number 2:15-ap- 01679-RK (Docket No. 640). FACC, Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640,
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25		1.	Conclusions of Law Summarizing the Pleadings CONCLUSION OF LAW On July 30, 2019, Douglas Chrismas filed the First Amended Counter-Complaint Against Art & Architecture Books of the 21st Century ("FACC"), asserting Four Counterclaims for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion and Replevin/Claim and Delivery. Attached to the FACC as Schedule 1 is a list of	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY/EVIDENCE First Amended Counter- Complaint ("FACC"), Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640, Adversary Proceeding Number 2:15-ap- 01679-RK (Docket No. 640). FACC, Adversary

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1	3.	In the First Counterclaim in the FACC for Declaratory Relief, Douglas Chrismas requested	FACC, Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640,
2		Declaratory Relief with respect to art assets owed by the Debtor which Mr. Chrismas	pg. 5, lines 3-22.
3		claimed as his property.	
4	4	In the Second Counterclaim in the FACC for Injunctive Relief, Douglas Chrismas requested	FACC, Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640,
5		Injunctive Relief with respect to art assets owed by the Debtor which Mr. Chrismas claimed as	pg. 5, lines 23 -26, p.6, lines 1-17.
6		his property.	1-1/.
7	5.	In the Third Counterclaim in the FACC for Conversion, Douglas Chrismas pleaded that he	FACC, Adversary Proceeding Docket No. 640,
8		had demanded return of the artwork that he claimed as his property and that the Plan Agent	pg. 6, lines 18-26, pg. 7, lines 1-3.
9		had converted artwork that was the personal property of Chrismas.	lines 1-3.
10	6.	In the Fourth Counterclaim in the FACC,	FACC, Adversary
11 12		Chrismas requested "Replevin: Claim and Delivery."	Proceeding Docket No. 640, pg. 7, lines 4-12.
13	7.	The Plan Agent filed his Motion for Order to Show Cause re: Contempt for Violation of	Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No.
14		Terms and Conditions of Confirmed Plan of Reorganization; and (2) To Enforce Terms and	2661.
15		Conditions of Confirmed Reorganization Plan in this Bankruptcy Case in order to have the	
16		Bankruptcy Court determine the rights of the parties to the Art Posters and to further	
17		determine the claims pleaded by Douglas Chrismas in the First, Third and Fourth	
18		Counterclaims in the First Amended Counter-Complaint.	
19	8.	Under the terms and conditions of the	Plan Confirmation Order,
20		Confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this Bankruptcy Case, the Plan Agent is empowered	Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1873, pg. 7, ¶ 14, lines 12-
21		under the Confirmation Order and the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in Support of	28, see also, Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case
22		the Confirmation Order to sell the Art Posters which are the subject of this proceeding on the	Docket No. 2661, pg. 1, lines 13-23.
23		Counterclaims of Douglas Chrismas.	Declaration of Sam Leslie in
24			Support of Order to Show Cause, Plan Agent Motion, Parlamentary Casa Docket No.
25			Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 23, ¶ 4, lines 2-7.
26			Debtor's Disclosure
27			Statement Attachment, Bankruptcy Case Docket No.
28			1570, pg. 29, lines 9-18.

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1		Findings of Foot and
2		Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Re:
3		Confirmation of Second
4		Amended Plan of Reorganization of Official
		Committee of Unsecured
5		Creditors as Modified,
6		Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1872.
7		See also Declaration of
8		Victor A. Sahn and Request
		for Judicial Notice Regarding Motion for Order
9		to Show Cause Re:
10		Contempt Against Douglas
11		Chrismas and to Enforce Terms and Conditions of
12		Order Confirming
		Committee's Second Amended Plan of
13		Reorganization [FRE 201]
14		("Sahn Declaration"),
15		Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689.
16		Plan Confirmation Order,
		Bates-Stamped pg. 26,
17		paragraph 7, lines 10-12 and
18		Bates-Stamped pg. 27, lines 1-5.
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Conclusions of Law Regarding Replevin

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
9.	"Replevin" is an action for specific recovery of property where the original taking was wrongful. In order to sustain a claim for Replevin under applicable California law, the Plaintiff must demonstrate that the personal property which the Plaintiff seeks to recover is being wrongfully withheld from the Plaintiff and that Defendant's possession or claim of ownership to it is wrongful.	Commercial & Savings Bank of Stockton v. Foster, 210 Cal. 76, 79, 290 P. 583 (1930); California Packing Corp. v. Stone, 64 Cal.App. 488, 492, 222 P. 193 (1923); Stockton Morris Plan Co. v. Mariposa, 99 Cal.App.2d 210, 211, 213, 221 P.2d 232 (1950).

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1		10.	The Art Posters which are the subject of this	Direct Valuation Testimony
2			dispute are listed in the Debtor's Inventory dated February 13, 2013, a copy of which is attached	of Douglas Chrismas in Support of Debtor's Motion
3			to these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as Exhibit 1.	[to] Assume Master Lease for Real Property at 5500
4				Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036,
5				Bankruptcy Case Docket
6				No. 266, pgs. 7-8 (Trial Exhibit P-22).
7				Leslie Poster Dec., ¶¶ 2, 3, 28-40 and Exhibit 1 attached
8				thereto.
9		11.	Based upon the Findings of Fact above, the	Ibid.
10			counterclaim of Douglas Chrismas for replevin should be denied because he has not proven by a	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79, above.
11			preponderance of the evidence that he owns the disputed property, the Art Posters; rather, the	450 70.
12			Plan Agent has proven by a preponderance of the evidence the Art Posters are Debtor's property which the Plan Agent may sell pursuant to the	
13			confirmed Second Amended Plan of Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case.	
14			Thus, the Plan Agent's possession of the Art	
15			Posters pursuant to the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case is not wrongful to establish the claim for	
16			is not wrongful to establish the claim for replevin by Chrismas.	
- 1	l			

Conclusions of Law Regarding Claim and Delivery

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
12.	Claim and Delivery is a provisional remedy sought in an action for Replevin of personal property. That is, it is a remedy by which a party with a superior right to a specific item of personal property may recover possession of that property before judgment through filing an application for a writ of possession which requires the plaintiff to establish the probable validity of plaintiff's claim to possession of the property.	Simms v. NPCK Enterprises, Inc., 109 Cal.App.4th 233, 241-242, 134 Cal.Rptr 2d 557 (2003). California Code of Civil Procedure, §§ 510.010 et seq., 512.010 et seq.
13.	To the extent that Douglas Chrismas asserts a counterclaim for claim and delivery, it should be denied because: (1) he has not met the statutory requirements for issuance of a writ of possession	Id. Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79 above.

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and (2) as discussed above regarding his claim	Conclusions of Law Nos. 1-
for replevin, he has not established the validity	12 above.
of his claim to possession of the property at	
issue, the Art Posters, as the Debtor, not he,	
owns that property.	

Conclusions of Law Regarding Conversion

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
14.	"Conversion is the wrongful exercise of dominion over property of another. The elements of a conversion claim are: (1) the plaintiff's ownership or right to possession of the property; (2) the defendant's conversion by a wrongful act or disposition of property rights; and (3) damages."	Lee v. Hanley, 61 Cal.4th 1225, 1240, 191 Cal.Rptr.3d 536 (2015).
15.	The counterclaim of Douglas Chrismas for conversion should be denied because as set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, he has not proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he owns or has the right to possession of the disputed property, the Art Posters.	Id. Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79 above. Conclusions of Law Nos. 1-14 above.

Conclusions of Law Regarding Declaratory Relief

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
16.	"Declaratory relief is an equitable remedy, which is available to an interested person in a case 'of actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the respective parties""	In re Claudia E., 163 Cal.App.4th 627, 633 (2008), citing inter alia, California Code of Civil Procedure § 1060.
17.	"The purpose of a declaratory judgment is to serve some practical end in quieting or stabilizing an uncertain or disputed jural relation."	Maguire v. Hibernia Savings and Loan Society, 23 Cal.2d 719, 729 (1944).
18.	Both Douglas Chrismas and the Plan Agent seek declaratory relief in their pleadings for a determination of ownership of the Art Posters as discussed above. Declaratory relief is appropriate in this case as there is an actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the respective parties, Chrismas and the Plan Agent, regarding their conflicting claims of	In re Claudia E., 163 Cal.App.4th 627, 633 (2008), citing inter alia, California Code of Civil Procedure § 1060. Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79

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	ownership of the Art Posters. As set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, the Bankruptcy Court has determined that the Plan Agent, not Chrismas, has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the Debtor, not Chrismas, owns the Art Posters, and therefore, the Plan Agent on behalf of the Debtor is entitled to declaratory relief that the Art Posters are owned by the Debtor.	above. Conclusions of Law Nos. 1-17 above.
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Conclusions of Law Regarding Injunctive Relief

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
19.	"According to well-established principles of equity, a plaintiff seeking a permanent injunction must satisfy a four-factor test before a court may grant such relief. A plaintiff must demonstrate: (1) that it has suffered an irreparable injury; (2) that remedies available at law, such as monetary damages, are inadequate to compensate for that injury; (3) that, considering the balance of hardships between the plaintiff and defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted; and (4) that the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction."	eBay Inc. v. MercExchange, L.L.C., 547 U.S. 388, 391 (2006).
20.	The counterclaim of Douglas Chrismas for injunctive relief should be denied because as set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, he has not proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he owns or has the right to possession of the disputed property, the Art Posters, to suffer any irreparable injury as to such property.	Id. Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79 above. Conclusions of Law Nos. 1-19 above.

Conclusions of Law Regarding the Authority Granted to the Plan Agent Under the Confirmed Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization in this Bankruptcy Case to Sell the Art Posters Which are Found Upon Exhibit 1 to these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
21.	Under the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this Bankruptcy Case, the Plan Agent is specifically authorized to sell the Art Posters which are attached to these Findings of Fact ad Conclusions of Law as Exhibit 1.	Plan Confirmation Order, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1873, pg. 7, ¶ 14, lines 12-28; see also, Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2661, pg. 1, lines 13-23.

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	<u> </u>		
1 2			Declaration of Sam Leslie in Support of Order to Show Cause, Plan Agent Motion, Bankruptcy Case Docket
3			No. 2661, pg. 23, ¶ 4, lines 2-7.
4			Debtor's Disclosure
5			Statement Attachment, Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 1570, pg. 29, lines 9-18.
7			Findings of Fact and
8			Conclusions of Law Re: Confirmation of Second
9			Amended Plan of Reorganization of Official Committee of Unsecured
10			Creditors as Modified, Bankruptcy Case Docket
11			No. 1872.
12			Declaration of Victor A. Sahn and Request for
13			Judicial Notice Regarding Motion for Order to Show
14			Cause re: Contempt Against Douglas Chrismas and to
15			Enforce Terms and Conditions of Order
16			Confirming Committee's Second Amended Plan Of
17			Reorganization [FRE 201] ("Sahn Declaration"),
18			Bankruptcy Case Docket No. 2689.
19			Plan Confirmation Order, Bates-Stamped pg. 26,
20			paragraph 7, lines 10-12 and Bates-Stamped pg. 27, lines
21			1-5.
22	22.	As the Plan Agent is the prevailing party in these proceedings regarding title and ownership of the	Ibid.
23		Art Posters, the Plan Agent is specifically and generally authorized to sell the Art Posters as	
24		provided for in the confirmed Plan of Reorganization in this Bankruptcy Case.	
25			

Conclusions of Law Regarding Contempt and Sanctions

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
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1 2	23.	"The standard for finding a party in civil contempt is well-settled: The moving party has the burden of showing by clear and convincing	In re Dver, 322 F.3d 1178, 1190-1191 (9th Cir. 2003), citing and quoting, In re
		evidence that the contemnors violated a specific	Bennett, 298 F.3d 1059,
3		and definite order of the court."	1069 (9th Cir. 2002).
4			
5		"[C]ivil contempt 'should not be resorted to where there is [a] <i>fair ground of doubt</i> as to the wrongfulness of the defendant's conduct.""	Taggart v. Lorenzen, 139 S.Ct. 1795, 1801 (2019), citing and quoting,
6		wrongrumess of the defendant's conduct.	California Artificial Stone
7			Paving Co. v. Molitor, 113 U.S. 609, 618, 5 S.Ct. 618,
8			28 L.Ed. 1106 (1885) (emphasis added).
9			
10	24.	The Bankruptcy Court finds that the evidence does not prove the Plan Agent's claim by clear	In re Dver, 322 F.3d at 1190-1191; Taggart v.
11		and convincing evidence that Douglas Chrismas should be held in contempt for willfully	Lorenzen, 139 S.Ct. at 1801.
		violating its order confirming the Plan of	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79
12		Reorganization in the Debtor's bankruptcy case	above.
13		because the evidence indicates that Mr. Chrismas's warning email and letter to the Plan	Conclusions of Law Nos. 1-
		Agent's auctioneer to stop the sale of the Art	23 above.
14		Posters and his opposition to the Plan Agent	
15		Motion claiming ownership in the pre-1999 Art Posters were in order preserve and protect his	
		rights to an adjudication by the Bankruptcy	
16		Court of his claims to ownership of the pre-1999	
17		Art Posters in the above-captioned adversary proceeding in which his First Amended Counter-	
		Complaint has been pending and that sales of the	
18		Art Posters by the Plan Agent without	
19		adjudicating his claims of ownership would prejudice his rights to an adjudication of his	
20		claims. Thus, while the Bankruptcy Court	
20		determines that Mr. Chrismas's counterclaims lack merit, the Bankruptcy Court finds that there	
21		is a fair ground of doubt as to whether Mr.	
22		Chrismas should be held in contempt in warning the Plan Agent and his auctioneer.	
23			

<u>Judgment in Pending Adversary Proceeding on Counterclaims of Douglas Chrismas Against</u> <u>Plan Agent Regarding Art Posters</u>

	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW	SUPPORTING AUTHORITY
25.	Based upon the Bankruptcy Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law on the counterclaims	Findings of Fact Nos. 1-79

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of Douglas Chrismas for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion, and Replevin/Claim and Delivery in his First Amended Counter-Complaint ("FACC") in the above-captioned adversary proceeding, and the motion of the Plan Agent for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions in the above-captioned bankruptcy case, judgment in favor of the Plan Agent should be entered in this adversary proceeding that: (1) the counterclaims in Mr. Chrismas's FACC as to the Art Posters should be denied and dismissed with prejudice; and (2) the Plan Agent's motion should be granted in part as to his request for declaratory relief that the Art Posters are property of the Debtor and its bankruptcy estate and should be denied in part as to the other relief sought by the Plan Agent.	
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The counterclaims of Defendant Douglas Chrismas in his First Amended Counter-Complaint for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, conversion and replevin/claim and delivery as to the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters are discrete claims separate and apart from the other claims in this adversary proceeding, and therefore, the Bankruptcy Court recommends that the United States District Court expressly determine that there is no just reason for delay and that the District Court may and should direct entry of final judgment on these claims pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b) made applicable to this adversary proceeding by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7054. The claims of ownership to the pre-1999 Art Posters are now adjudicated, and the final determination of ownership of the posters will allow the Plan Agent to carry out his responsibilities to liquidate the value in the art posters to pay for operations of the Debtor and creditors under the confirmed Plan of Reorganization, which became effective now over six years ago.

The Plan Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions is a discrete claim separate and apart from the other claims in the adversary proceeding and in the bankruptcy case, and therefore, the Bankruptcy Court recommends that the United States District Court expressly determine that there is no just reason for delay and that the District Court may and should direct entry of final judgment on the Plan Agent's claims on his motion for contempt, declaratory relief

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and sanctions pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b) made applicable to this adversary proceeding by Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7054 and 9014.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED by the United States Bankruptcy Court that for the foregoing reasons, the United States District Court accept this Report and Recommendation, adopt the above-stated findings of fact and conclusions of law, and enter a final judgment on the Plan Agent's motion for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions and on Defendant Douglas Chrismas's counterclaims in his First Amended Counter-Complaint as to the disputed pre-1999 Art Posters as recommended herein. Specifically, the Bankruptcy Court recommends that final judgment be entered by the United States District Court that: (1) denies and dismisses with prejudice the First, Second, Third and Fourth Counterclaims for Declaratory Relief, Injunctive Relief, Conversion, and Replevin/Claim and Delivery in the First Amended Counter-Complaint of Douglas Chrismas as to the Art Posters created before the formation of the Debtor in June 1999; and (2) granting in part the Motion of the Plan Agent for contempt, declaratory relief and sanctions by granting declaratory relief that the pre-1999 Art Posters are owned by the Debtor which the Plan Agent may sell pursuant to the confirmed Plan of Reorganization and denying in part by denying the Plan Agent's motion as to other relief sought to hold Mr. Chrismas in contempt and for sanctions.

This Report and Recommendation containing the findings of fact and recommended conclusions of law are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 157(c)(1) and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9033. Accordingly, within fourteen days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Bankruptcy Court's Report and Recommendation."

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1	Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to object to this						
2	Report and Recommendation. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9033; In re Delano Retail						
3	Partners, LLC, No. 11-37711-B-7, Adv. No. 13-2250-B, 2014 WL 4966476, slip op. at *13						
4	(Bankr. E.D. Cal. Sept. 29, 2014), citing, Turner v. Duncan, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir.1998) and						
5	Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir.1991).						
6	IT IS SO ORDERED.						
7	###						
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23	Date: May 19, 2022						
24	Robert Kwan United States Bankruptcy Judge						
25	Office States Bankruptey Judge						
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EXHIBIT 1

ACE GALLERY POSTER INVENTOR' 2.15.13

ARTIST	POSTER	YEAR	SIZE	NOTES	QTY	\$ EACH	TOTAL \$
			50" x 34"	Signed			\$125,000.00
		1976	50" x 34"	Unsigned		\$1,200.00	\$658,800.00
		1976	50" x 34"	Signed		\$5,000.00	\$90,000.00
		1976	50" x 34"	Unsigned		\$1,200.00	\$1,766,400.00
•		1977	50" x 34"	Signed			\$130,000.00
		1977	50" x 34"	Unsigned		\$1,200.00	\$1,820,400.00
•		1977	40" x 28"	Unsigned	8		\$6,400.00
Andy Warhol		1977	60" x 40"	Signed			\$10,000.00
Andy Warhol Andy Warhol			60" x 40"	Unsigned			\$1,267,200.00
Andy Warhol	Self Portrait	1311	42 1/2" x 30"	Unsigned		\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00
		2007	29 1/2" x 48"	Signed		\$275.00	\$40,975.00
		2007	29 1/2" x 48"	Unsigned			\$103,000.00
			60" x 31"			\$50.00	\$63,200.00
			52" x 36"	Unsigned Signed	61	\$200.00	
		2005	52" x 36"	Unsigned		\$200.00	\$12,200.00 \$49,100.00
	•						
		2011	39" x 27" 39" x 27"	Signed		\$100.00 \$30.00	\$6,300.00
				Unsigned			\$25,590.00
		2008	48" x 32"	Signed		\$150.00	\$2,550.00
		2008	48" x 32"	Unsigned	2501	\$50.00	\$125,050.00
		2002-3	39 1/2" x 25"	Unsigned			фоот ооо оо
		2002-3	39 1/2" x 25"	Signed			\$395,000.00
		2002-3	73" x 48"	Unsigned			\$123,600.00
		2006	48" x 32"	Unsigned		\$50.00	\$77,000.00
		2006	48" x 32"	Signed			40.000.00
		2012	39" x 27"	Signed			\$8,200.00
		2012	39" x 27"	Unsigned			\$41,300.00
Frank Gehry		1997	42" x 63 1/2"	Unsigned			***
H.C. Schink	ŭ	2004-5	48" x 40"	Signed	173	\$225.00	\$38,925.00
	- U	2004-5	48" x 40"	Unsigned	842	\$50.00	\$42,100.00
	El Sueno de la Melinche		50" x 83"	Signed			
Hector Garcia	–		50" x 70 1/2"	Signed			***
	Making Things		40 1/2" x 29"	Unsigned			\$25,450.00
	Making Things		75" x 50"	Unsigned		\$75.00	\$164,850.00
Issey Miyake			29 1/2" x 40"	Unsigned		\$60.00	\$139,260.00
Issey Miyake			64 1/4" x 48 1/4"	Unsigned	1691	\$150.00	\$253,650.00
		2006	50" x 32"	Signed	18		\$1,800.00
John Millei		2006	50" x 32"	Unsigned		\$40.00	\$111,440.00
		1994	34 1/4" x 26"	Unsigned		\$125.00	\$42,750.00
Lauren Bon	Bees and Meat	2007	72" x 36"	Signed		i i	
		2007	72" x 36"	Unsigned			
Laurie Lipton		2012	39" x 27"	Signed		\$225.00	\$38,475.00
	J	2012	39" x 27"	Unsigned		\$40.00	\$31,640.00
	U	2007	52" x 32"	Signed		i i	\$64,200.00
	U	2007	52" x 32"	Unsigned		\$40.00	\$47,360.00
Mary Corse&James Turre		2013	18" x 18"	Signed		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$1,400.00
	High Fashion Crime Series		52" x 36"	Signed		·	\$1,000.00
Melanie Pullen	High Fashion Crime Series	2005	52" x 36"	Unsigned	1238	\$50.00	\$61,900.00
Melanie Pullen	Violent Times	2008	48" x 32"	Signed	23	· '	\$4,600.00
		2008	48" x 32"	Unsigned		\$50.00	\$98,350.00
		2007	48" x 29 3/4"	Signed		·	
Melissa Ketschmer	Plane Series	2007	48" x 29 3/4"	Unsigned	2205	\$40.00	\$88,200.00
Michael Heizer	This Equals That		33 3/4" x 59 1/2"	Unsigned	1	NFS	
Michael Heizer	Untitled, Horizantal Rock		30" x 30 3/4"	Unsigned	1	NFS	
Michael Heizer	Untitled, Angled Rock		33 1/2" x 41 1/2"	Unsigned	1	NFS	
Michael Heizer	Untitled, Vertical Rock		37" x 27"	Unsigned		NFS	
Richard Serra	Ace L.A. May-April	1970	32" x 44"	Unsigned	3	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
	• •	2005	52" x 34"	Signed		NFS	

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Robert Graham	The Female Form	2005	52" x 34"	Unsigned	1803	\$60.00	\$108,180.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Venice USA	1977	50" x 36"	Signed	21	\$5,000.00	\$105,000.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Venice USA	1977	50" x 36"	Unsigned	2226	\$1,200.00	\$2,671,200.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Venice USA	1977	72" x 50"	Signed	40	\$5,000.00	\$200,000.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Venice USA	1977	72" x 50"	Unsigned	1387	\$2,500.00	\$3,467,500.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Feb + Mar	1978	75" x 30"	Unsigned	2364	\$400.00	\$945,600.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Canada Cloister Serie	1980	50" x 36"	Signed	31	\$2,500.00	\$77,500.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Canada Cloister Serie	1980	50" x 36"	Unsigned	2988	\$400.00	\$1,195,200.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Melrose Cloister 3		27" x 36"	Signed	62	\$2,500.00	\$155,000.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Melrose Cloister 3		27" x 36"	Unsigned	58	\$200.00	\$11,600.00
Robert Rauschenberg	Ace Los Angeles	1989	60" x 38"	Unsigned	2933	\$125.00	\$366,625.00
Robert Smithson	Great Salt Lake, Spiral Jet	ty	29 1/2" x 33 1/2"	Unsigned	87	\$1,800.00	\$156,600.00
Robert Smithson	Asphalt Rundown	1969	39 1/2" x 26 3/4"	Unsigned	6	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00
Robert Smithson	Great Salt Lake, Movie Tre	eatment	38" x 22"	Unsigned	11	\$1,600.00	\$17,600.00
Robert Smithson	Movie Treatment Part I		20" x 26"	Unsigned	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Robert Smithson	Movie Treatment Part II		20" x 26"	Unsigned	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Robert Wilson	Black Panther	2007	48" x 32"	on web, no	ot in stock		
Robert Wilson	Horned Frog	2007	48" x 32"	on web, no	ot in stock		
Robert Wilson	Snow Owl	2007	48" x 32"	on web, no	ot in stock		
Robert Wilson	South American Porcupine	2007	48" x 32"	on web, no	ot in stock		
Roger Herman	Woman on RR Tracks	1987	60" x 39 1/2"	Unsigned	1474	\$50.00	\$73,700.00
Roger Herman	Ace Los Angeles	1995	24 3/4" x 38"	Unsigned	80	\$50.00	\$4,000.00
Roy Lichtenstein	Surrealist Paintings	1979	58" x 44"	Unsigned	3293	\$2,500.00	\$8,232,500.00
Sam Francis	Paintings and Drawings	1979	55" x 40	Unsigned	2496	\$100.00	\$249,600.00
Tara Donovan	A Survey	2005	48" x 36"	on web, no	ot in stock		
Tierney Gearon	Frame 22	2009	48" x 36"	Unsigned	2243	\$60.00	\$134,580.00
Tim Hawkinson	Sonic	2005	48" x 35"	Unsigned	1506	\$75.00	\$112,950.00
					62500		\$26,707,250.00