

1018

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 8, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL, OTIS -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to opinions concerning authenticity, attribution and authorship of works of fine art

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The arts and cultural affairs law is amended by adding a  
2     new section 13.04 to read as follows:  
3     S 13.04. OPINIONS AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF  
4     WORKS OF FINE ART. 1. IN ANY CIVIL ACTION BROUGHT AGAINST AN AUTHENTICATOR THAT ARISES FROM OR RELATES TO THE AUTHENTICATOR'S OPINION OR INFORMATION CONCERNING A WORK OF FINE ART, THE CLAIMANT SHALL:  
5     (A) SPECIFY WITH PARTICULARITY IN THE COMPLAINT FACTS SUFFICIENT TO  
6     SUPPORT EACH ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM OR CLAIMS ASSERTED; AND  
7     (B) PROVE THE ELEMENTS OF SUCH CLAIM OR CLAIMS BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING  
8     EVIDENCE.  
9     2. IN ANY ACTION DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE  
10    AUTHENTICATOR SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER HIS, HER OR ITS REASONABLE  
11    ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS AND EXPENSES IF AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THE  
12    AUTHENTICATOR PREVAILS IN SUCH ACTION.  
13    3. "AUTHENTICATOR" AS USED IN THIS SECTION SHALL MEAN, SUBJECT TO THE  
14    LIMITATIONS IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A PERSON OR ENTITY  
15    RECOGNIZED IN THE VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY AS HAVING EXPERTISE REGARDING  
16    THE ARTIST OR WORK OF FINE ART WITH RESPECT TO WHOM SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY  
17    RENDERS AN OPINION IN GOOD FAITH AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION  
18    OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF FINE ART, OR A PERSON OR ENTITY RECOGNIZED IN  
19    THE VISUAL ARTS OR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AS HAVING EXPERTISE IN UNCOVER-  
20    ING FACTS THAT SERVE AS A DIRECT BASIS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FOR AN  
21    OPINION AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF  
22    FINE ART. "AUTHENTICATOR" SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, AUTHORS  
23  
24

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD04295-01-5

1 OF CATALOGUES RAISONNE OR OTHER SCHOLARLY TEXTS IN WHICH AN OPINION AS  
2 TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF ART IS  
3 EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. "AUTHENTICATOR" SHALL NOT INCLUDE A PERSON OR  
4 ENTITY THAT HAS A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE WORK OF FINE ART FOR WHICH  
5 SUCH OPINION IS RENDERED OR IN ANY TRANSACTION CONCERNING SUCH WORK OF  
6 FINE ART FOR WHICH THE OPINION IS RENDERED, OTHER THAN TO BE COMPENSATED  
7 FOR SERVICES SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY ENGAGED IN TO PROVIDE AN OPINION AS  
8 TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF SUCH WORK OF FINE ART  
9 OR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHICH SUCH AN OPINION IS BASED IN WHOLE OR  
10 IN PART.

11 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
12 have become a law and shall apply to all opinions as to the authentic-  
13 ity, attribution or authorship of a work of fine art provided to someone  
14 other than the authenticator after such effective date.