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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
5 AT SEATTLE

6 PICTURE PERFECT FILM ASSETS,

7 Plaintiff,

8 v.

C16-1893 TSZ

9 THE MacLAREN ART CENTER,
10 et al.,

MINUTE ORDER

11 Defendants.

12 The following Minute Order is made by direction of the Court, the Honorable
Thomas S. Zilly, United States District Judge:

13 (1) The motion brought by defendants The MacLaren Art Center (“MAC”) and
14 Carolyn Bell Farrell, docket no. 18, to dismiss plaintiff’s Second Amended Complaint is
GRANTED in part and DENIED in part as follows:

15 (a) The Rule 12(b)(2) motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction
16 is GRANTED in part as to defendant Carolyn Bell Farrell, who has submitted an
uncontroverted declaration indicating that she resides in Ontario, Canada and has
17 had no communications with plaintiff Picture Perfect Film Assets or its principal
Evan McMullen. *See* Farrell Decl. at ¶¶ 2 & 4 (docket no. 19); *see also Dunn v.*
18 *Hatch*, 2015 WL 4479463 at *2 (W.D. Wash. July 22, 2015) (observing that
Rule 12(d)’s “evidence limitation to the four corners of the complaint does not
19 apply” to a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction). The Second
Amended Complaint, docket no. 14, contains no allegation that Farrell has had the
20 requisite contact with Washington to support the exercise of specific personal
jurisdiction. *See Cascade Yarns, Inc. v. Knitting Fever, Inc.*, 2011 WL 31862 at
21 *4-*8 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 3, 2011). Indeed, McMullen agrees that, despite his
multiple attempts to contact her, Farrell never responded. McMullen Decl. at ¶ 26
22 (docket no. 29). Plaintiff’s claims against Carolyn Bell Farrell are DISMISSED
without prejudice for lack of personal jurisdiction.

1 (b) The Rule 12(b)(2) motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction
2 is DENIED as to defendant The MacLaren Art Center. Plaintiff has pleaded a
3 claim for declaratory relief regarding the ownership of Rodin sculptures that it
4 alleges MAC's court-appointed receiver Padden + Yorke Inc. ("P+Y") sold to
5 D'Airain Corporation ("D'Airain"), which were then sold to plaintiff. *See* 2d Am.
6 Compl. at ¶¶ 79-83 (docket no. 14). The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over
7 such dispute because the parties are diverse and the amount in controversy exceeds
8 \$75,000. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). MAC's attorney, Arnold B. Schwisberg, has
9 undisputedly written letters and sent e-mails to plaintiff and/or its attorney
10 contesting P+Y's authority to sell the Rodin bronzes at issue and threatening
11 litigation in Canada. *See* Exs. 3, 5, & 6 to 2d Am. Compl. (docket no. 14). The
12 Court is satisfied that plaintiff's declaratory judgment claim arose from MAC's
13 contact with the forum and that the assertion of personal jurisdiction is reasonable.
14 *See Cascade Yarns*, 2011 WL 31862 at *7 (ruling that a letter from a party's
15 attorney threatening litigation in the absence of an apology was an intentional act,
16 directed at the forum, which put the party on notice that the recipient of the letter
17 might commence an action against it in the forum).

18 (c) The Rule 9(b) motion to dismiss plaintiff's fourth claim for failure
19 to plead fraud with sufficient particularity is GRANTED, and the claim of fraud
20 asserted against MAC is DISMISSED without prejudice and with leave to amend.
21 The only statements plaintiff alleges were made to it by MAC are those contained
22 in letters and emails from MAC's attorney, which occurred after plaintiff entered
23 into the agreement with D'Airain to purchase the Rodin sculptures at issue. Given
the timing of such statements, they could not have induced plaintiff into wiring
funds to D'Airain's attorney's trust account, and they do not support a fraud
theory that MAC made promises without any intent of delivering the Rodin
bronzes to plaintiff.

(d) The Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss plaintiff's first, second, and
third claims under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act
("RICO") is GRANTED, and the RICO claims against MAC are DISMISSED
without prejudice and with leave to amend. In connection with defendants'
Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court has not considered the various declarations and
exhibits submitted by the parties. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(d). RICO provides a
private right of action for any person "injured in his business or property by reason
of a violation of section 1962." 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c). Plaintiff has pleaded claims
under §§ 1962(b), (c), and (d). *See* 2d Am. Compl. at ¶¶ 45-64 (docket no. 14).
Sections 1962(b) and (c) prohibit "a pattern of racketeering activity" and the
"collection of unlawful debt," while § 1962(d) proscribes conspiring to violate
§§ 1962(a), (b), or (c). *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1962. Racketeering activity is statutorily
defined to include certain felonies under state law and certain indictable acts or
offenses under federal law. 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1). A "pattern of racketeering

1 activity” requires, at a minimum, two predicate acts of racketeering, occurring
2 within ten years of each other, with at least one act taking place after October 15,
3 1970. 18 U.S.C. § 1961(5). To form a “pattern,” the predicate acts must be both
4 “related” and “continuous.” *H.J. Inc. v. Nw Bell Tel. Co.*, 492 U.S. 229 (1989);
5 *Allwaste, Inc. v. Hecht*, 65 F.3d 1523, 1527 (9th Cir. 1995). Plaintiff has alleged
6 that MAC was “embroiled in litigation” concerning damage to various Rodin
7 sculptures that were on loan, that the Canadian government rejected proposed
8 “tax flips” offered to MAC donors, that MAC is supported by the City of Barrie,
9 Ontario, which has referenced \$3.9 million in loans made to MAC as a “doubtful
10 account,” that MAC abandoned in Washington two Rodin bronzes that operated
11 as security for a loan from Cosmopolitan Imports, another entity managed by
12 McMullen, and that MAC did not object to the bill of sale executed by P+Y,
13 purporting to transfer title to 26 Rodin posthumous bronzes to D’Airain, but then
14 later represented that P+Y did not have authority to sell 24 of those 26 sculptures.
15 *See* 2d Am. Compl. at ¶¶ 42-43 (docket no. 14). Such conduct does not constitute
16 murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, or dealing in
17 obscene matter or controlled substances, and is not indictable under any of the
18 provisions of the United States Code enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1), and thus,
19 plaintiff has not pleaded, as against MAC, the requisite two predicate acts of
20 racketeering.

21 (2) If plaintiff wishes to amend its complaint, it shall file a motion, along with
22 a proposed third amended complaint, within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this
23 Minute Order, and shall note such motion for the fourth Friday after filing. Any response
and any reply shall be due in accordance with Local Civil Rule 7(d)(3). If plaintiff seeks
to re-plead a RICO claim against MAC, it shall submit with its motion to amend a RICO
case statement, which shall include the facts upon which plaintiff is relying to support its
RICO claim as a result of the “reasonable inquiry” required by Federal Rule of Civil
Procedure 11. The RICO statement shall be in a form using the numbers and letters as set
forth below, and shall state in detail and with specificity the following information:

1. RICO Provision: State whether the alleged unlawful conduct is in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(a), (b), (c), and/or (d).
2. Defendants: List each RICO defendant and state the alleged misconduct and basis of liability of each RICO defendant.
3. Other RICO Violators: List all alleged RICO violators other than the RICO defendants listed above, and state the alleged misconduct of each alleged wrongdoer.
4. Victims: List the alleged victims and state how each victim was allegedly injured.

1 5. Pattern of Racketeering Activity: Describe in detail the pattern of
2 racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debts alleged for each RICO
3 claim. A description of the pattern of racketeering shall include the
4 following information:

5 a. List the alleged predicate acts and the specific statutes that were
6 allegedly violated;

7 b. Provide the dates of the predicate acts, the participants in the
8 predicate acts, and a description of the facts surrounding the
9 predicate acts;

10 c. If the RICO claim is based on the predicate offenses of mail fraud,
11 wire fraud, or fraud in the sale of securities, then state the
12 circumstances constituting fraud “with particularity,” Fed. R. Civ.
13 P. 9(b), including the time, place, and contents of the alleged
14 misrepresentations, and the identity of persons to whom and by
15 whom the alleged misrepresentations were made;

16 d. State whether there has been a criminal conviction for violation of
17 the predicate acts and, if so, provide particulars;

18 e. State whether civil litigation has resulted in a judgment with respect
19 to the predicate acts and, if so, provide particulars; and

20 f. Describe how the predicate acts are both “related” and “continuous”
21 within the meaning of *H.J. Inc. v. Nw. Bell Tel. Co.*, 492 U.S. 229,
22 239 (1989), and its progeny, including *Allwaste, Inc. v. Hecht*, 65
23 F.3d 1523, 1527 (9th Cir. 1995).

6. Enterprise: Describe in detail the alleged enterprise and specify what
structure it had. A description of the enterprise shall include the following
information:

a. State the names of the individuals, partnerships, corporations,
associations, or other legal entities, that allegedly constitute the
enterprise;

b. Describe the structure, purpose, function, and course of conduct of
the enterprise;

c. State whether any defendants are employees, officers, or directors of
the alleged enterprise or are associated with the alleged enterprise;

- 1 d. Describe the alleged relationship between the activities of the
2 enterprise and the alleged pattern of racketeering activity, and
3 discuss how the racketeering activity differs from the usual and daily
4 activities of the enterprise, if at all; and
- e. Describe how the enterprise was affected by or benefitted from the
alleged pattern of racketeering activity.

- 5 7. Interstate or Foreign Commerce: Describe the effect of the activities of the
enterprise on interstate or foreign commerce.
- 6 8. If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(a), provide the
7 following information: (i) State who received the income derived from the
8 pattern of racketeering activity or through the collection of an unlawful
9 debt; and (ii) Describe the use or investment of such income.
- 9 9. If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(b), provide the
10 following information: (i) Describe in detail the acquisition or maintenance
11 of any interest in or control of the alleged enterprise; and (ii) State whether
12 the same entity is both the liable “person” and the “enterprise” under
13 § 1962(b).
- 12 10. If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), provide the
13 following information: (i) State who is employed by or associated with the
14 enterprise; and (ii) State whether the same entity is both the liable “person”
15 and the “enterprise” under § 1962(c).
- 14 11. If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d), describe in
15 detail the alleged conspiracy.
- 15 12. Injury to Business or Property: Describe (i) the alleged injury to business
16 or property, and (ii) the direct causal relationship between the alleged injury
17 and the violation of the RICO Act.
- 17 13. Damages: List the damages sustained by reason of the alleged violation of
18 § 1962, indicating the amount for which each defendant is allegedly liable.

19 (3) Within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this Minute Order, plaintiff
20 shall SHOW CAUSE why its claims against defendants D’Airain Corporation, Gordon
21 Arnold, and William Moore should not be dismissed without prejudice for failure to
22 effect service and prosecute. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); *see also* Minute Order at ¶ 2
23 (docket no. 26) (indicating that plaintiff’s attempt to serve Moore by mail did not comply
with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(2)(C)(ii)).

1 (4) Having reviewed the Joint Status Report filed on May 19, 2017, docket
no. 27, and in light of the procedural posture of this matter, the Court DECLINES to set
2 a trial date at this time. If plaintiff files a motion for leave to amend, the Court will set a
deadline for the parties to submit another Joint Status Report after it rules on plaintiff's
3 motion. If plaintiff does not seek leave to amend, the parties shall submit an updated
Joint Status Report within thirty-five (35) days of the date of this Minute Order.

4 (5) The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Minute Order to all counsel of
5 record.

6 Dated this 28th day of July, 2017.

7 William M. McCool
8 Clerk

9 s/Karen Dews
10 Deputy Clerk