

APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, FIRST DEPARTMENT

Pivar v. Pivar

2026 NY Slip Op 00030 · No. Index No. 323491/21; Appeal No. 5516; Case No. 2025-01271 · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, First Department, affirmed an order denying Jonas Hertner's motion to intervene in a matrimonial proceeding and to enforce or ratify a purchase agreement for artwork. The court held that the agreement was invalid and unenforceable because the court-appointed receiver acted without required court oversight and that sanctions against Hertner were appropriate.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Renwick, P.J.; Manzanet-Daniels, J.; Gesmer, J.; Higgitt, J.; Michael, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department
DECIDED	January 6, 2026
DOCKET	Index No. 323491/21; Appeal No. 5516; Case No. 2025-01271
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Proposed intervenor Jonas Hertner appealed from an order denying his motion to intervene in the matrimonial proceedings and to enforce or ratify a purchase agreement for artwork, declaring the agreement invalid and unenforceable, and imposing attorney-fee sanctions.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Review of the Supreme Court's determinations concerning intervention, enforceability and ratification of the agreement, and sanctions; the court reviewed the determinations for error and affirmed.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Jonas Hertner, proposed intervenor v. Larimore Hampton Pivar, Stuart L. Pivar

TOPICS

family law procedure

intervention

contracts

sanctions

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

family law

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Hertner demonstrated a real and substantial interest sufficient to intervene as of right or permissively in the matrimonial action.
2. Whether the receiver's December 22, 2023 purchase agreement for marital artwork was valid and enforceable without prior court knowledge and approval.
3. Whether the purchase agreement could be ratified by the spouses.
4. Whether attorney-fee sanctions under 22 NYCRR 130-1.1 were appropriate.

HOLDINGS

1. A proposed intervenor must demonstrate a real and substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding to obtain intervention as of right or by permission; Hertner failed to establish an ownership interest in the artwork sufficient to justify intervention.
2. The December 22, 2023 purchase agreement was invalid and unenforceable because the receiver executed it without first apprising the parties and the court, contrary to the court's retained oversight and the limits of the receiver's authority.
3. The purchase agreement could not be ratified because the Pivars lacked full knowledge of the material facts and did not clearly assent to the transaction.
4. The \$5,000 attorney-fee sanctions imposed against Hertner were appropriate.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“such relief is warranted only where the proposed intervenor demonstrates a real and substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding” ([*1])

“The receiver is a “creature of the court” and is “subject to the control of the court at all times”” ([*1])

“Ratification requires full knowledge of the material facts relating to the transaction, and the assent must be clearly established and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts or language” ([*1])

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A court-appointed receiver in the Pivars' matrimonial proceedings executed a December 22, 2023 purchase agreement for artwork known as Early Marilyn Thirty-five Times, 1962, without first apprising the parties or the court. The Pivars stated that they did not learn of the agreement or its terms until late February 2024, and the husband never consented to the sale; Hertner continued attempting to obtain his consent. The agreement expired on February 29, 2024, and the receivership had been terminated two weeks earlier by a so-ordered stipulation.

Hertner was also involved in removing the artwork from the husband's residence and contacted the husband directly despite knowing that he was represented and had been declared incompetent.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Supreme Court, New York County, denied Hertner's motion for leave to intervene and for enforcement or ratification of the purchase agreement. The court granted the spouses' joint cross-motion to declare the agreement invalid and unenforceable and imposed \$5,000 in sanctions against Hertner. The First Department unanimously affirmed without costs.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Yuppie Puppy Pet Prods., Inc. v Street Smart Realty, LLC, 77 AD3d 197, 201 [1st Dept 2010]
- Sieger v Sieger, 297 AD2d 33, 36 [2d Dept 2002], lv dismissed 99 NY2d 651 [2003]
- Lyons v Salamone, 32 AD3d 757, 758-759 [1st Dept 2006]
- Furey v Furey, 104 AD2d 318, 318 [1st Dept 1984], appeal dismissed 64 NY2d 646 [1984]
- Johnson v Rayner, 25 AD 598, 600 [1st Dept 1898]
- Matter of Kane [Freedman-Tenenbaum], 75 NY2d 511, 514 [1990]
- Taglioni v Garcia, 200 AD3d 44, 45 [1st Dept 2021]
- Atlantic Specialty Ins. Co. v Landmark Unlimited, Inc., 234 AD3d 404, 405 [1st Dept 2025]

OPINION

Pivar v. Pivar 2026 NY Slip Op 00030

PER CURIAM.

Pivar v Pivar (2026 NY Slip Op 00030) Pivar v Pivar 2026 NY Slip Op 00030 Decided on January 06, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: January 06, 2026 Before: Renwick, P.J., Manzanet-Daniels, Gesmer, Higgitt, Michael, JJ. Index No. 323491/21|Appeal No. 5516|Case No. 2025-01271| [*1]Larimore Hampton Pivar, Plaintiff-Respondent, v Stuart L. Pivar, Defendant-Respondent. Jonas Hertner, Intervenor-Appellant. Nathan A. Holcomb, PC, New York (Nathan A. Holcomb of counsel), for appellant. Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP, New York (Derek Wolman of counsel), for Larimore Hampton Pivar, respondent. Meenan & Associates, LLC, New York (Lissett C. Ferreira of counsel), for Stuart L. Pivar, respondent. Order, Supreme Court, New York County (Kathleen Waterman-Marshall, J.), entered February 11, 2025, which denied proposed intervenor Jonas Hertner's motion for an order to enforce or ratify a purchase agreement for the artwork known as Early Marilyn Thirty-five Times, 1962, a/k/a, Marilyn Thirty-five Times,

1962 ,and for leave to intervene in the matrimonial proceedings, and granted plaintiff's and defendant's joint cross-motion to the extent of declaring the purchase agreement invalid and unenforceable, and awarded sanctions pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1 in the form of attorneys' fees of \$2,500 payable by Hertner to defendant husband's attorney and \$2,500 payable to plaintiff wife's attorney, unanimously affirmed, without costs. The court properly denied Hertner's motion for leave to intervene in the matrimonial action. Although intervention is to be liberally granted (see CPLR 1012; 1013; Yuppie Puppy Pet Prods., Inc. v Street Smart Realty, LLC , 77 AD3d 197, 201 [1st Dept 2010]), whether sought as of right under CPLR 1012 (a)(3) or in the court's discretion under CPLR 1013, such relief is warranted only where the proposed intervenor demonstrates a real and substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding (see *Sieger v Sieger*, 297 AD2d 33, 36 [2d Dept 2002], lv dismissed 99 NY2d 651 [2003]). Here, Hertner failed to establish any ownership interest in the artwork sufficient to justify intervention in the matrimonial action (see *id.*). The court correctly determined that the December 22, 2023 purchase agreement was not valid and enforceable without the court's prior knowledge and approval (see *Lyons v Salamone* , 32 AD3d 757, 758-759 [1st Dept 2006]; *Furey v Furey* , 104 AD2d 318, 318 [1st Dept 1984], appeal dismissed 64 NY2d 646 [1984]; *Johnson v Rayner* , 25 AD 598, 600 [1st Dept 1898]). Pursuant to CPLR 6401, a temporary receiver's authority is limited to "such conditions and for such purposes as the court shall direct." The receiver is a "creature of the court" and is "subject to the control of the court at all times" (*Matter of Kane [Freedman-Tenenbaum]* , 75 NY2d 511, 514 [1990]). Although the order appointing the receiver granted her the power to effectuate the sale of the Pivars' art collection and to execute any documents in connection therewith, "including but not limited to a contract for the sale of the Collection," the order expressly maintained court oversight. The receiver was required to apprise the court of her efforts every 90 days, and the court retained the right to modify the provisions of the receivership "by expanding it, limiting it, or vacating it." Furthermore, it is well settled that courts may not direct the sale of marital property prior to entry of judgment unless the parties have consented to the sale (see *Taglioni v Garcia* , 200 AD3d 44, 45 [1st Dept 2021]). Here, the Pivars maintain that they had no knowledge of the purchase agreement until late February 2024, approximately two months after it was executed, and prior to entry of any final judgment. Accordingly, the court-appointed receiver's failure to apprise the parties and the court prior to signing the purchase agreement invalidated the agreement. In addition, as the motion court noted, the contract expired by its own terms on February 29, 2024, and the receivership was terminated two weeks earlier by so-ordered stipulation. The court also correctly declined to ratify the purchase agreement. Ratification requires full knowledge of the material facts relating to the transaction, and the assent must be clearly established and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts or language (see *Atlantic Specialty Ins. Co. v Landmark Unlimited, Inc.* , 234 AD3d 404, 405 [1st Dept 2025]). Here, the record demonstrates that the Pivars were neither provided with a copy of the purchase agreement nor informed of any details concerning the sale of the artwork until late February 2024. Moreover, Hertner's continued

attempts to obtain the husband's consent to the sale further underscore that the Pivars never assented to the terms of the purchase agreement. Finally, the sanctions imposed by the court were appropriate given Hertner's involvement in the removal of the artwork from the husband's residence and his repeated attempts to contact the husband directly, despite knowing that the husband was represented by an attorney and had been declared incompetent (see 22 NYCRR 130-1.1[a]). We have considered the remaining arguments and find them unavailing. THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT. ENTERED: January 6, 2026
PER CURIAM.

Pivar v Pivar (2026 NY Slip Op 00030) Pivar v Pivar 2026 NY Slip Op 00030 Decided on January 06, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: January 06, 2026 Before: Renwick, P.J., Manzanet-Daniels, Gesmer, Higgitt, Michael, JJ. Index No. 323491/21|Appeal No. 5516|Case No. 2025-01271| [*1]Larimore Hampton Pivar, Plaintiff-Respondent, v Stuart L. Pivar, Defendant-Respondent. Jonas Hertner, Intervenor-Appellant. Nathan A. Holcomb, PC, New York (Nathan A. Holcomb of counsel), for appellant. Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP, New York (Derek Wolman of counsel), for Larimore Hampton Pivar, respondent. Meenan & Associates, LLC, New York (Lissett C. Ferreira of counsel), for Stuart L. Pivar, respondent. Order, Supreme Court, New York County (Kathleen Waterman-Marshall, J.), entered February 11, 2025, which denied proposed intervenor Jonas Hertner's motion for an order to enforce or ratify a purchase agreement for the artwork known as Early Marilyn Thirty-five Times, 1962, a/k/a, Marilyn Thirty-five Times, 1962 ,and for leave to intervene in the matrimonial proceedings, and granted plaintiff's and defendant's joint cross-motion to the extent of declaring the purchase agreement invalid and unenforceable, and awarded sanctions pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1 in the form of attorneys' fees of \$2,500 payable by Hertner to defendant husband's attorney and \$2,500 payable to plaintiff wife's attorney, unanimously affirmed, without costs. The court properly denied Hertner's motion for leave to intervene in the matrimonial action. Although intervention is to be liberally granted (see CPLR 1012; 1013; Yuppie Puppy Pet Prods., Inc. v Street Smart Realty, LLC , 77 AD3d 197, 201 [1st Dept 2010]), whether sought as of right under CPLR 1012 (a)(3) or in the court's discretion under CPLR 1013, such relief is warranted only where the proposed intervenor demonstrates a real and substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding (see Sieger v Sieger, 297 AD2d 33, 36 [2d Dept 2002], lv dismissed 99 NY2d 651 [2003]). Here, Hertner failed to establish any ownership interest in the artwork sufficient to justify intervention in the matrimonial action (see id .). The court correctly determined that the December 22, 2023 purchase agreement was not valid and enforceable without the court's prior knowledge and approval (see Lyons v Salamone , 32 AD3d 757, 758-759 [1st Dept 2006]; Furey v Furey , 104 AD2d 318 , 318 [1st Dept 1984], appeal dismissed 64 NY2d 646 [1984]; Johnson v Rayner , 25 AD 598, 600 [1st Dept

1898)). Pursuant to CPLR 6401, a temporary receiver's authority is limited to "such conditions and for such purposes as the court shall direct." The receiver is a "creature of the court" and is "subject to the control of the court at all times" (*Matter of Kane [Freedman-Tenenbaum]* , 75 NY2d 511, 514 [1990]). Although the order appointing the receiver granted her the power to effectuate the sale of the Pivars' art collection and to execute any documents in connection therewith, "including but not limited to a contract for the sale of the Collection," the order expressly maintained court oversight. The receiver was required to apprise the court of her efforts every 90 days, and the court retained the right to modify the provisions of the receivership "by expanding it, limiting it, or vacating it." Furthermore, it is well settled that courts may not direct the sale of marital property prior to entry of judgment unless the parties have consented to the sale (see *Taglioni v Garcia* , 200 AD3d 44, 45 [1st Dept 2021]). Here, the Pivars maintain that they had no knowledge of the purchase agreement until late February 2024, approximately two months after it was executed, and prior to entry of any final judgment. Accordingly, the court-appointed receiver's failure to apprise the parties and the court prior to signing the purchase agreement invalidated the agreement. In addition, as the motion court noted, the contract expired by its own terms on February 29, 2024, and the receivership was terminated two weeks earlier by so-ordered stipulation. The court also correctly declined to ratify the purchase agreement. Ratification requires full knowledge of the material facts relating to the transaction, and the assent must be clearly established and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts or language (see *Atlantic Specialty Ins. Co. v Landmark Unlimited, Inc.* , 234 AD3d 404 , 405 [1st Dept 2025]). Here, the record demonstrates that the Pivars were neither provided with a copy of the purchase agreement nor informed of any details concerning the sale of the artwork until late February 2024. Moreover, Hertner's continued attempts to obtain the husband's consent to the sale further underscore that the Pivars never assented to the terms of the purchase agreement. Finally, the sanctions imposed by the court were appropriate given Hertner's involvement in the removal of the artwork from the husband's residence and his repeated attempts to contact the husband directly, despite knowing that the husband was represented by an attorney and had been declared incompetent (see 22 NYCRR 130-1.1[a]). We have considered the remaining arguments and find them unavailing. THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT. ENTERED: January 6, 2026