IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

[2022] SGHC 264

Originating Claim No 41 of 2022 (Summons No 1800 of 2022)

Between

Janesh s/o Rajkumar

... Claimant

And

Unknown Person ("CHEFPIERRE")

... Defendant

GROUNDS OF DECISION

[Civil Procedure — Injunctions — Proprietary injunction] [Civil Procedure — Service — Substituted service out of jurisdiction]

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This judgment is subject to final editorial corrections approved by the court and/or redaction pursuant to the publisher's duty in compliance with the law, for publication in LawNet and/or the Singapore Law Reports.

Janesh s/o Rajkumar v Unknown Person ("CHEFPIERRE")

[2022] SGHC 264

General Division of the High Court — Originating Claim No 41 of 2022 (Summons No 1800 of 2022) Lee Seiu Kin J 13 May 2022

21 October 2022

Lee Seiu Kin J:

Introduction

1 Cars, books, wine and luxury watches – these are but, to name a few examples, highly sought-after items for collectors. For digital nomads, however, especially those steeped in the world of blockchain and cryptocurrencies, Non-Fungible Tokens ("NFTs") have, in recent times, emerged as a highly sought-after collectors' item. They are, to draw an analogy, the equivalent of a Rolex Daytona, or a F.P. Journe, to a horology enthusiast. Such is the hype around such NFTs that it is not uncommon to read about them being sold for sums of money that are puzzling to the unconverted. For fans of such NFTs, however, it seems that it is well worth the cost.

2 In the present case, the claimant was the proud owner of an NFT known as the Bored Ape Yacht Club ("BAYC") ID #2162 (the "Bored Ape NFT"):¹

Rarity Rank #8858 Owner: chefpierre	F	arity Score
	63.27 rarity.tools v2	
	Sorted Traits By	Category Uniqueness Pairs
	Rarity Score Highest Floor Price Name	
	Hat	135 ETH +5.2
GR	Beanie	57
	Fur	120.69 ETH +12.3
	Red	47
	Background	113.7 ETH +10.7
	Purple	129
	Mouth	110 ETH +11.3
	Jovial	29
	Clothes	109 ETH +1.3
Bored Ape YC #2162 ID 2162	<none></none>	188
	Eyes	105 ETH +2.8
🕗 View on OpenSea	Bored	171
	Trait Count	103 ETH +13.6
	5	254
	Earring	103 ETH +1.7
	<none></none>	702

3 The Bored Ape NFT was precious to the claimant.² That was apparent from his affidavit. The claimant, however, had lost "possession" of the Bored Ape NFT – he therefore brought the present application for an injunction to restrain the defendant from dealing with it.³

¹ Claimant's First Affidavit at para 5.

² Claimant's First Affidavit at para 52.

³ Claimant's First Affidavit at paras 121, 132–133.