

Painting “gift to dealer” case settled

A legal dispute over the ownership of a painting by New York-based artist Julie Heffernan has been settled out of court, handing possession to the artist. Heffernan had brought a case against Paul Kopeikin Gallery in Los Angeles over a painting she said was consigned to the gallery for sale for an exhibition in 2005, but was kept by Kopeikin for more than five years. Kopeikin denied that he retained the work, *Self Portrait*, unlawfully, but that it was given to him by the artist as a gift. According to court papers, Heffernan agreed to donate a “small painting as a gift” to Kopeikin, which he chose himself. But when the work was sent to Heffernan to be repaired earlier this year, it was much larger than she expected. Kopeikin said neither party specified the title or exact dimensions of the work that was offered as a gift. ■ **A.S.**