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Parish's Skelton art put in secure location

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Wednesday was moving day for economist Al Parish's collection of Red Skelton clown paintings, artwork that will be sold to help pay his debts.

About 14 of the original Skelton works were moved out of their temporary holding site at Parish's sprawling home near Summerville to a secure location.

Although Skelton was a popular comedian for decades on TV, stage and film, the cash value of his clown-themed paintings has collapsed, art appraisers say.

"We don't yet have a clear plan for what the best way to sell them is, but we're working on it," said attorney David Dantzler, the court-appointed receiver who is tabulating Parish's assets.

Parish, a former economist at Charleston Southern University, last month was charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with five counts of civil fraud covering his collapsed investment pools. On paper, nearly 600 clients have lost more than \$523 million in the pools, which included investments in artworks.

Parish has been jailed as a flight risk on a single criminal charge of lying to federal investigators and providing false documents.

Meanwhile, some of the businesses that lent Parish money are showing a reluctance to turn over collateral that Parish put up to secure the money.

Swiss Supply of Miami said in documents Wednesday that it loaned \$2 million and was never repaid, in addition to the company owner losing \$2 million in personal money invested with Parish.

Court documents list 36 watches that the company wants to keep; they are among the collateral Parish put up for part of the loan.

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