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### Paul Henry RHA (1876-1958)

FIGURES IN THE WOODS, c.1903

pencil and charcoal with ink on paper

signed lower left; also inscribed in the artist's hand, Paul Henry White Cottage Knaphill Surrey' on the reverse

15.75 by 11in. (40.01 by 27.94cm)

#### Provenance:

Adam's, 7 April 1993, lot 106;

Private collection

#### Literature:

Kennedy, S.B., *Paul Henry, Paintings Drawings Illustrations*, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2007, catalogue no. 259, p.144 (listed)

Dated c. 1903 on the evidence of the signature, its scroll-like surround and the architectural structure at the base of the drawing. It resembles another Henry piece, *The wedding was the greatest affair that was ever seen in France, 1902-3* (Kennedy, 2007, catalogue no. 6) The latter, and *Figures in the Woods*, were almost certainly part of a number of drawings made to illustrate an unknown narrative. As Henry moved into White Cottage, Knaphill, in 1903 this drawing cannot date before that year.

The strong Whistlerian nature of the drawing is typical of Paul Henry's illustrative work done in the years before he first went to Achill. Charcoal was almost his sole medium in those years. 'No chalk or crayon has the same soft, velvety quality, no other material is so sensitive and tractable,' he later wrote. 'I felt every time I used it, that the vine branches from which it was made brought me nearer to the spirit of France in some almost mystical way.'<sup>1</sup> In *An Irish Portrait* he stated that his love of charcoal dated from a chance encounter with a charcoal burner at Rambouillet in 1900, but in fact he was using it long before that meeting, which may merely have confirmed its qualities to him. Indeed, it is more likely that it was a group of drawings by Millet, done in charcoal and sanguine and executed with spontaneity, as Millet's finished pictures were not, which started him using the medium.<sup>2</sup>

Dr S.B. Kennedy

<sup>1</sup> Paul Henry, *An Irish Portrait*, Batsford, London, 1951, p.29

<sup>2</sup> See *An Irish Portrait*, p.24

€3,000-€5,000 (£2,520-£4,200 approx.)



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### Paul Henry RHA (1876-1958)

ISABELLA, 1906

charcoal on paper

16 by 11.75in. (40.64 by 29.85cm)

#### Provenance:

with the Oriel Gallery, Dublin, 1978;

Private collection

#### Exhibited:

'Paul Henry', Oriel Gallery, Dublin, 21 March - 8 April, 1978, catalogue no. 26 (illustrated in catalogue)

#### Literature:

Kennedy, S.B., *Paul Henry, Paintings Drawings Illustrations*, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2007, catalogue no. 97, p.119 (illustrated)

Dr Kennedy notes this example was probably used as an illustration for Keats' *Isabella: Or, The Pot of Basil*. Another example from this period entitled *Isabella Seeking Lorenzo's Body in the Forest, c.1906* was bequeathed in 1974 by Mrs M.F. Henry, (Mabel Young) the Artist's widow, their reference, NGI.7602 .

€2,000-€3,000 (£1,680-£2,520 approx.)