

Lot 26

Leo Whelan RHA (1892-1956)

COLLECTION OF ARTIST'S ARCHIVAL MATERIAL INCLUDING INVENTORY RECORDS, CORRESPONDENCE, PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRESS CUTTINGS [1930s to 1950s]

variously signed, inscribed and dated

A fascinating collection of archival material providing an eye-opening insight into the artist's personal and professional life. The collection includes various personal and professional photographs of the artist, family members, sitters and artworks as well as a photographic inventory of his artworks, most variously annotated by Whelan. A significant collection of press cuttings relating to his exhibitions and his comments and contributions to artistic life in Ireland.

Among correspondence is a postcard from "The Perjurer [Thomas] Bodkin" to the artist 22 August 1950 and letters from Bodkin to the artist's sister. Legal correspondence between the artist and solicitors [Arthur Cox & Co.] from the 1950s and Senior Counsel directions in a court case between Whelan [plaintiff] and a Dorothy Countess Beatty [defendant].

Letters regarding commissions etc can also be found. Among them, The Thomas Haverty Trust [5/06/31], John Power & Son, Ltd [3/11/38], Oifig an Tánaiste [1945], The Department of Education [2/05/51], Malcolm John MacDonald British politician and diplomat [19/03/1937], Royal St. George Yacht Club and All Hallows College. Communication post-1956 (the year of Whelan's death) also proves interesting, with letters from James Bourlet & Sons Ltd and the RHA among others.

Humorous entries by the artist and his sisters among others into "The School Girls Own Confession Album" are testament to the Whelans' sense of humour and their close-knit relationship.

€500-€700 (£410-£580 approx.)