

Lot 24

Frances Whelan (1888-c.1970) & Lillian 'Lily' Whelan (1890-1967)

JACK BUTLER YEATS DOLL, c.1958

puppet; (1); letter; (1); exhibition catalogue; (1); photograph; (1) letter written and signed by Jack B. Yeats; catalogue signed by Leo Whelan 8½ by 4in. (20 by 10cm)

Frances and Lily Whelan were the elder sisters of artist Leo Whelan and lived with him at the family home (which doubled as a hotel) at 65 Eccles Street, Dublin. The Whelan sisters were artists in their own right and designed among other items; dolls, puppets, miniature costumes, cushions, quilting, fire-screens, table lamps, shades and mirrors. Their craftwork was the subject of a very well received exhibition at the United Arts Club, 3 Upper Fitzwilliam St., Dublin in June 1958 where among the items shown was the Jack B. Yeats doll offered in this lot. The show's success is recorded in newspaper cuttings and was described as "an outstanding exhibition of really fine craftsmanship" (Evening Main, 28 June 1958) and "A delightful exhibition of works" (Irish Independent, 28 June 1958). Other political figures including deValera, Churchill and President O'Kelly will be offered in Whyte's forthcoming History, Literature and Collectibles auction 9 March 2014.

Also included in this lot is a copy of the Jack Yeats National Loan Exhibition catalogue [June-July 1945] signed by Leo Whelan, a letter from Jack B. Yeats to "the Misses Whelan" [on 18 Fitzwilliam Square headed paper] offering his condolences on the death of their brother Leo [dated November 8th 1956] and a photograph showing Yeats, Whelan, Victor Waddington and Thomas MacGreevy, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland [1950-1963].

€600-€800 (£500-£660 approx.)