

## Peter Doig's "The Architect's Home in the Ravine"

One of the artist's finest works

First unveiled at his breakthrough Whitechapel show in 1991

Headlines Sotheby's Contemporary Art Evening Auction

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Peter Doig, *The Architect's Home in the Ravine* (1991), 200x250cm

**15 February 2018:** Peter Doig's landmark *The Architect's Home in the Ravine* returns to auction on 7 March to lead Sotheby's Evening Sale of Contemporary art. Estimated at £14-18 million\*, the painting dates from 1991, an important milestone in the artist's career, when, just a year after graduating from his Master's degree at Chelsea, he was awarded the highly prestigious Whitechapel Artist's award.

*The Architect's Home in the Ravine* was one of only four works the artist chose to be included in the subsequent show at the Whitechapel Gallery. Others include *Iron Hill* (1991) which became the first work by the artist to sell for over £1 million at Sotheby's auction in 2006, and *Rosedale* (1991) which established a new \$28.8 million auction record for any living British artist last year. *The Architect's Home in the Ravine* was further selected for Doig's first major institutional show - his 1996 exhibition at the Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst in Bremen, Germany.

\*\$US19.2-24.9 million / €15.9-20.4 million

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's European Head of Contemporary Art said: "*The Architect's Home in the Ravine* undoubtedly ranks among Peter Doig's greatest works. Standing in front of it, it is immediately clear as to why he is considered one of Britain's foremost living painters."

The early recognition bestowed by the Whitechapel Award spurred a period of intense painterly production and the resultant works are some of the most celebrated of his entire career. Doig views the small number of large format paintings created during this time as the thematic matrix for his subsequent *oeuvre* and several are now held in permanent museum collections: *Ski Jacket* (1994) in the Tate, *The House that Jacques Built* (1991) in the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and *Blotter* (1993) in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

*The Architect's Home in the Ravine* refers to a building remembered from the artist's childhood in Canada – the home of Eberhard Zeidler, which is situated in the wealthy Toronto suburb of Rosedale. However, whilst this is the stated subject, the eerie mood and the composition can be better traced to a celebrated building by architect Le Corbusier, the *Unité d'Habitation* in Briey-en-Fôret in North-East France. In the summer of 1991 Doig visited this site as part of a team of artists and architects working on its restoration; the building had been derelict since 1973. He was struck by the view of the modernist building from the dense surrounding forest. It appeared just out of reach; at once threatening and inviting, comforting and obscure.

Le Corbusier's building at Briey is referenced in the *The Architect's Home in the Ravine* through the coloured panels that bedeck the front of the house, only just visible through the thickets of forest. Doig would refer back to the building repeatedly and in more explicit terms in the celebrated *Concrete Cabin* paintings that were executed between 1992 and 1996. This conflation of physical experience and emotive recollection is typical of Doig. He is an artist of oneiric atmosphere whose works are as much meditations on the concept of memory itself as musings on previous personal experience.

Three of the four highest prices for the artist at auction have been set in the past 12 months.

Full details on Sotheby's forthcoming Contemporary Art sales will be available next week.

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\* Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

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