

Heffel Begins Coast-to-Coast Valuation Days at the National Gallery of Canada



Tom Thomson, *Woodland Interior, Algonquin Park*

January 15, 2014 -- Heffel Fine Art Auction House is pleased to announce that their expert appraisers will be in Ottawa for a special one-day event on January 25, 2014 at the National Gallery of Canada, offering free verbal appraisals to the public. Heffel's team of appraisers have great expertise on the value of original Canadian and international artworks, including paintings, works on paper and sculptures.

Registration is required, and can be made by visiting valuationday.ca or calling 613-230-6505. Once registered, and depending on the size and nature of the artwork, the public is encouraged to bring in the piece or alternatively, provide quality photographs (either printed or on a phone or tablet) for larger or fragile works. Appraisals will be limited to two per person (three for members of the National Gallery).

The inspiring location of the National Gallery of Canada is a superb environment to learn about the value of your artwork. In the past, Heffel has been thrilled to inform collectors of the impressive value of their paintings. In 2007, Kaileigh Richter was the recipient of such a surprise. A small, unsigned landscape painting hung innocuously next to a fireplace, yet caught the eye of Heffel's Ottawa representative Andrew Gibbs. Gibbs's visit was originally to appraise Richter's chinaware, but he immediately recognized the painting style of celebrated Canadian artist Tom Thomson, and Joan Murray, an expert on Thomson, later confirmed the painting as authentic. Richter inherited Thomson's *Woodland Interior, Algonquin Park* from her grandmother's estate when she was ten years old, after finding the painting stacked in a pile of her grandmother's belongings. Richter's great-grandfather, Albert H. Robson, most likely received the painting when he was Thomson's boss at the historically significant advertising firm Grip Ltd. in Toronto. Robson had inscribed on verso: "This sketch was made by Tom Thomson in 1915" and Richter simply took a liking to the name, not believing that the painting was authentic. After learning about the great historical and financial value of the work, Richter consigned *Woodland Interior, Algonquin Park* to Heffel's fall 2007 auction of Fine Canadian Art. The painting was estimated at \$350,000 – 450,000 and sold for an amazing final price realized of \$546,250 (price includes 15% Buyer's Premium).

National valuation days will also take place at Heffel's locations in Toronto and Montreal on February 6 and in Vancouver on February 20. Please contact the representatives listed below to make your appointment:

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About Heffel Fine Art Auction House

With offices and representatives in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, Heffel truly embodies Canada's National Auction House. Since 1995, it has sold more Canadian art than any other auctioneer worldwide, with over \$350 million in art auction sales. In addition to full-colour printed catalogues, Heffel publishes its entire live auction online at www.heffel.com, from initial promotion and illustrated lot listings, to the auction's live multi-camera webcast and final sale results. Led by the most experienced team of fine art specialists in Canada, Heffel provides transparent expert service because they believe that art inspires the human spirit.

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