



**STRIKING:** the 1995 image of Ian Paisley by artist Rod Coyne

## Paisley set to go to highest bidder

**BY EMMA-LOUISE GIBSON**

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IAN Paisley is a name synonymous both with Northern Ireland's turbulent political history and the Province's shared new beginning.

His iconic image was encapsulated in a 1995 painting by Rod Coyne, a painting which will be auctioned tomorrow evening at Wilsons Auctions at 7pm.

The picture is emblematic of its subject: its sheer size, at 6ft by 3.5ft, embodies the First Minister's impact on the political world, a world which has changed considerably since the work's inception more than a decade ago.

The 12 years that have passed since it was unveiled have seen many developments in the DUP founder's attitude and actions.

Physically, he has changed too, mirrored by the contrasting

now and then images of the man.

Coyne painted the work while living in Germany, completely removed from the context of his subject, subsequently allowing him to paint what he described as "a neutral portrait" of Paisley and the times.

The painting was included in a Royal Ulster Academy of Arts exhibition at the Ulster Museum the year after it was produced.