

For Immediate Release

6 April 2006

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LOWRY MASTERPIECE LEADS EXCEPTIONAL SELECTION OF 20th CENTURY ART TO BE OFFERED IN *BRITISH ART WEEK* AT CHRISTIE'S

British Art Week, 5 – 9 June 2006

20th Century British Art

9 June 2006

King Street – Christie's announce that they will offer for sale a rediscovered masterpiece by L.S. Lowry, one of the finest works by the artist ever to come to auction. *The Liver Building, Liverpool* (estimate: £300,000-500,000) has been unseen and unknown to the public for over 30 years, and has emerged as one of a selection of three works by the artist to be offered from the Collection of the late Robert Sangster. The sale of *20th Century British Art* on 9 June will also include exceptional works by renowned modern British artists including Frank Auerbach, David Bomberg, Patrick Caulfield, Henry Moore, William Scott and Graham Sutherland and follows on from the auction at King Street on 18 November 2005 which realised a total of £7,541,200, the highest ever total for the category.



'The Liver Building, Liverpool' (estimate: £300,000-500,000) was acquired from the Lefevre Gallery, London *circa* 1963 by Vernon Sangster, the founder of Vernon's Pools. It has been exhibited only once, at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, in 1973, and is otherwise unpublished and unseen by the public. L.S. Lowry's style saw him portray the townscapes created by the industrial revolution, often showing skylines of smoking chimneys and streets teeming with people. These landscapes were often composite images created partly in his imagination but *The Liver*

Building, Liverpool, which was painted in 1962, steps away from this trend and offers a faithful view across the Mersey to the distinctive skyline of its eastern shore.

Another selected work from the Collection of the late Robert Sangster is *A Quarrel*, which was executed by Lowry in 1935 and portrays a street fight set against an urban background with a crowd gathering around (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Lowry is thought to have included himself in a number of his own paintings and the solitary figure standing at the bottom-left of this work, observing the fight with his hands behind his back, may well represent the artist. The third work from this group, *Procession in South Wales, Whit Monday* was painted in 1963 (estimate: £200,000-300,000). Here Lowry portrays a group of people dressed in their Sunday best and set against a flake white background. The group walk in an orderly fashion with only the gaggle of children at the front not stepping out in time with each other.

Elsewhere in the sale, *Ronda: in the Gorge of the Tajo* by David Bomberg (1890-1957) is expected to realise £250,000-350,000. Bomberg's work is increasingly popular, as witnessed in June 2005 when *Toledo from the Alcazar* sold at Christie's for £640,800 and established a new world record price for the artist. The example to be offered this June was painted in 1935 during one of the artist's frequent tours of Spain. He explored the countryside surrounding Ronda on a donkey, finding suitable vantage points from which to study and paint this remarkable town. Frank Auerbach, a student of Bomberg, is represented in the sale by *Head of J.Y.M.* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) which was executed in 1974. The subject of this picture is Julia Yardley Mills (J.Y.M.), a professional model who met Auerbach for the first time in 1956 and visited his studio every Wednesday and Sunday until 1997. This work is typical of Auerbach's distinctive style, in which he used thick layers of impasto in order to build texture and volume from the paint.

Two exceptional works by William Scott, R.A. (1913-1989) will also be offered at the sale. *Brown Still Life*, which was painted in 1956, is a demonstrative example of the artist's ability to embrace both figurative and abstract styles. One of the finest works by the artist ever to appear at auction, it is estimated to realise £250,000-350,000. *Orange and Red*, a large-scale abstract work painted in 1958, was a gift from William Scott to the late sculptor Lynn Chadwick and carries an estimate of £180,000-250,000. A further highlight of the sale is *Maquette for The Driver, Royal Artillery Memorial, 1921-25* by Charles Sargeant Jagger, A.R.A. (1885-1934) which is expected to realise £60,000-80,000. Jagger had fought in the trenches during the Great War and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. He was commissioned to design a memorial which would be erected in Hyde Park Corner and commemorate the 49,000 fatalities of the Royal Artillery Regiment that had fallen in the conflict. The resulting sculpture, which was dedicated in 1925, remains to this day as an eloquent memorial to the common man who helped to win the war.

Also included in the sale is the Collection formed by the American businessman, J. Brooks Buxton. This eclectic group of 64 lots includes oil paintings, works on paper and sculpture and is expected to realise in excess of £300,000. Highlighting the group is *A Nude* by Ivon Hitchens (1893-1979) which has an estimate of £20,000-30,000. Other items include *Small Orange and Ochre (Baroque)* (estimate: £3,000-5,000), an attractive gouache still-life by Patrick Heron (1920-1999), and a terracotta sculpture of *Europa and the Bull* by Frank Dobson (1886-1963) which carries an estimate of £3,000-5,000.

In June 2006 Christie's will host *British Art Week* comprising auction sales, events and lectures dedicated to the history of British art and furniture. A selection of paintings, watercolours, furniture and sculpture representing over 500 years of British art will be offered over 5 sales held between 5 and 9 June. *British Art Week* will include works by many renowned artists, including Gainsborough, Lowry, Henry Moore, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Stubbs, Tissot and Turner, as well as important English furniture.

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Images available on request
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Notes to editors:

- Works of art to be sold during *British Art Week* will be on public view at Christie's, King Street, between 30 May and 8 June 2006
- Christie's have held market share in the category of 20th Century British Art for over 10 years. This market dominance has been further strengthened by the last four auctions, which have been the most successful sales of 20th century British Art ever held and have realised a collective total of £26,682,272.
- The sale of *20th Century British Art, including Property from the Collection of the Late Sir Colin and Lady Anderson* on 18 November 2005 realised a total of £7,541,200, the highest ever total for a sale of 20th Century British Art anywhere.
- Christie's stage two sales of 20th Century British Art a year at the King Street headquarters, and hold artist records for a number of renowned figures including Frank Auerbach, David Bomberg, Patrick Caulfield, Sir Winston Churchill, William Scott and Graham Sutherland.
- Robert Sangster (1936-2004) was one of the most renowned figures in the world of horseracing. The son of Vernon Sangster, founder of the Vernons Pools business, he acquired his first racehorse in 1967 and, at the age of 39, joined with Vincent O'Brien and John Magnier to build the business which is now the Coolmore Stud in Tipperary. He won 27 European Classics and was champion owner five times. His impressive tally of European wins included two victories at the Derby as well as wins at the Breeder's Cup Mile, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and the Melbourne Cup.
- L.S. Lowry, R.A. (1887-1976) was a curious character, dedicated to his art but always restrained by the Industrial movement that he portrayed. Lowry worked a '9 to 5' job with Pall Mall Property Company in Manchester until his retirement in 1952, and painted only in his spare time. Despite this restraint, he was hugely successful even within his lifetime; the Manchester City Art Gallery purchased *An Accident* in 1930, he was signed up to the Lefevre Gallery in London in 1939, he was elected an RA in 1962 and by 1967, the General Post Office issued a stamp reproducing one of his paintings. In the same year, he turned down a knighthood on the grounds that he saw little point in receiving it after the death of his mother.