

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S

**CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCE FOUR SUPERB WORKS BY
LAURENCE STEPHEN LOWRY, R.A. (1887-1976)
TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE IN JUNE 2008**



20th Century British Art including the Peter Meyer Collection

Christie's London

Friday, 6 June 2008 at 10.30am

London – Christie's London are proud to announce that four superb works by **Laurence Stephen Lowry, R.A. (1887-1976)** will be offered in the sale of *20th Century British Art including the Peter Meyer Collection* on Friday 6 June 2008. Leading the four works is Lowry's extraordinary painting ***Manchester City vs. Sheffield United, 1938***, illustrated above, which is estimated to realized between £700,000 and £1 million. This painting perfectly demonstrates the artist's ability of portraying the excitement and atmosphere of the moment in a uniquely characterful and evocative manner. Also expected to realize between £700,000 and £1 million, ***An Old Church, 1943*** is a recently discovered work by Lowry which has not been seen in public since the 1940s when it was bought by the present owner from the artist's London agents. Lowry's ***A Cricket Match, 1952*** (estimate: £600,000 - 800,000) has not been seen in public for over a decade, whilst ***The Sea, 1944*** (estimate: £180,000 - 250,000) is also fresh to the market, having been bought in the 1940s and then passed by decent to the present owner. The other works by Lowry to be offered are ***Teenagers, 1961*** (estimate: 25,000-35,000) and ***Father and Son, 1961*** (estimate: £30,000-50,000). The overall sale will feature 183 lots, with estimates ranging from £1,000 to £1million and is expected to realize a total of over £12.5 million.



Rachel Hilderley, Christie's Director and Co-Head of 20th Century British Art: "*Manchester City vs. Sheffield United*, is from a small and important group of paintings in which Lowry records an actual event rather than a composite image of different locations or impressions. The date of the work, combined with the title, suggests that the match depicted is Manchester City's 3:2 home win against Sheffield United on 22 October 1938. Lowry was a keen football supporter, his team was Bolton Wanderers, and in the present work he concentrates on the home crowd rather than the team members, using the occasion of the match to concentrate on depicting the personalities of the individuals attending."

L.S. Lowry's *An Old Church*, 1943 (estimate: 700,000-1,000,000) is a recently discovered work which has not been seen in public since the 1940s when it was bought by the present owner from the artist's London agents. The bustling figures are placed in groups, though stand alone, expressing a universal loneliness which is characteristic of Lowry's figures. Their isolation is echoed in the distant church. This imposing building does not appear to be connected to its surroundings, but stands dark and clear against the urban skyline. Lowry places it behind a fence that isolates it from himself, the viewer and from the foreground figures. In many of Lowry's works there is a barrier in the foreground of his pictures such as railings or posts, this has been suggested as representing Lowry's own loneliness – slightly removed from, and unable to become part of, the world around him. A pencil drawing of the same subject *An Old Chapel Hall*, was executed in 1942, a year earlier than the present work and is part of a private collection.



Unseen in public for over a decade, *A Cricket Match*, 1952 by L.S. Lowry (estimate: £600,000 - 800,000) is one of a rare, few works that Lowry executed on the subject. First and foremost a football fan, he took advice regarding fielding positions from his long-standing friend, Alick Leggat, who was for many years Honorary Treasurer of the Lancashire County Cricket Club. In the present work, the players are completely dwarfed by the industrial landscape that surrounds them.

This is typical of the way that Lowry chose to depict the world around him, that even in people's leisure time: they were still not able to escape the daily grind of their work lives. The other paintings that Lowry painted depicting cricket matches include *Lancashire League Cricket Match: Crowd Around a Cricket Sight Board*, 1964-69 (Christie's London, 19 November 2004) and *A Cricket Match*, 1938.

The Sea, 1944 by (estimate: £180,000 - 250,000) is also fresh to the market, having been bought in the 1940s and then passed by decent to the present owner. Throughout his life, the sea always held a particular fascination for Lowry. In his youth, holidays were spent at Lytham St Anne's on the Fylde coast at Easter, and at Rhyl, on the North West coast, during the Summer. Viewed as statements of the human condition, Lowry's seascapes are sublimely beautiful works on a theme which many do not realise was one of his passions.



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Images available on request
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Notes to editors:

Auction –

20th Century British Art including the Peter Meyer Collection, Christie's 8 King Street, St James', London:
Friday, 6 June 2008 at 10.30am

Viewing: Christie's, King Street

Sunday, 1 June: 2pm - 5pm

Monday, 2 June: 9am - 4:30pm

Tuesday, 3 June: 9am – 8.00pm

Wednesday, 4 June: 9am - 4:30pm

Thursday 5 June: 9am - 4:30pm

About Christie's

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