

News Release  
9 April 2010

## LOWRY'S TRAVELS

Drawings, paintings and prints by L.S. Lowry (1887-1976)

17 April - 29 May 2010

29 New Bond Street, London W1



*Piccadilly Circus*, c. 1950, pastel on paper, signed, 45.7 x 38 cm

*Lowry's Travels* depicts the artist's journeys throughout Britain before and after the war. During his lifetime he travelled extensively throughout the United Kingdom, only leaving its shores to holiday in Southern Ireland. Around 20 works will chart his progression as an artist through his choice of subject matter and his breadth of medium; from drawing to oil painting; from pastel to print. The exhibition will include works depicting scenes from Greater Manchester to the Tyne and Wear; from London to Wales and Gloucestershire.

These travels were vital to the progression of his artistic career. Even when living in Greater Manchester, Lowry would journey around the streets during his job as a rent collector. As he wrote, his chief recreation was 'walking about the streets of any poor quarter of any place I

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may happen to be in.' The artist would always take his notebook with him, continually drawing the streets and people he saw as in *Figures in a Street*, *Street Scene Pendlebury* and *Stockport Viaduct*. During this period he also travelled away from Manchester, regularly going to London where he created *Piccadilly Circus* and *The Tate Gallery*, and other areas such as Gloucestershire where he drew *Northleach Church*.

In 1952 Lowry's retirement coincided with a decline in the traditional industries in Greater Manchester, as well as his desire to depict them: 'My interest evaporated spiritually in about 1951...' From this time onwards he began to travel more extensively, finding new inspiration from other industries and areas around Britain. During the 1960s he often went to the Tyne and Wear to towns such as Sunderland and South Shields. Here the booming shipping industry inspired Lowry in works such as *Tanker entering the Tyne*, 'The Tyne is a very alive river with a lot of shipping on it and to watch the ships come in and go out keeps me out of mischief...'. These industries also fed him imagery of working men such as *Man at South Shields*, who is thought to be one of the fishermen Lowry often observed.

Lowry's love of travel started as a youngster, on the many holidays he took with his mother. These were important punctuations for him in an otherwise lonely and unhappy childhood. Travelling to these places served as a blissful escape and remained so throughout the rest of his life.

## **For further press information please contact:**

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## **Notes to Editors:**

Situated in the heart of Mayfair, London, **Halcyon Gallery** is one of London's leading art galleries specialising in fine art and master graphics as well as original paintings, drawings and sculpture.

For further information please visit: [www.halcyongallery.com](http://www.halcyongallery.com)

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Opening Times:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am - 6.00pm  
Thursday 10.00am - 8.00pm

Free entry