

RICHARD GREEN

LAURENCE STEPHEN LOWRY RA RBA LG NS

Manchester 1887 - 1976 Glossop

Ref: CE 100

Yachts



Signed lower left: *L.S. Lowry*
Oil on board: 11 x 12 ½ in / 27.9 x 31.8 cm
Frame size: 16 x 18 in / 40.6 x 45.7 cm
In a gilded and gessoed Labretto style frame
Painted *circa* 1945



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www.richardgreen.com

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Provenance:

Lefevre Gallery, London [X 5613], directly from the artist, 11th October 1945;
private collection, UK, acquired from the above, 8th February 1955, then by descent

This picturesque and peaceful seascape focuses on a single yacht at the centre of Lowry's small, almost square canvas, serenely still amongst softly textured ripples of white, ochre and Prussian blue. The horizon is almost invisible between the luminous elements of sea and scumbled, opalescent sky, its subtle axis countered by the warmth of blush-coloured sails. Michael Howard writes, 'leisure boats and working ships held an endless fascination for Lowry, both as motifs in their own right and as sources for painterly effects. He regarded the problems of capturing the immensity of the sea and the quality of the light falling on its ever-changing surface as one of the major artistic challenges of his life.'¹

Lowry spent many childhood holidays with his parents at Lytham St Annes, a resort on the Lancashire coast, and began his career with images of the sea. Mervyn Levy suggests the yachts at Lytham St Annes in particular haunted the artist's imagination: 'They re-appear over the years in dreamlike evocations of those long ago holidays; a touching tribute to his mother's love of their old holiday resort.'² Throughout his artistic career Lowry regularly returned to the British coast for inspiration, as Richard Grossick relates, 'observing it as a place of recreation and industry with people, promenades, promontories, docks, yachts, boats and ships. In 1938, shortly before his mother's death, his relationship with the coastal landscape changed, stripped back to the bones, just sea and sky, a symbol of his more philosophical view of human existence.'

¹ Michael Howard, *Lowry A Visionary Artist*, Salford, 2000, p.227.

² Mervyn Levy, 'Introduction', *LS Lowry RA 1887-1976*, exh. cat., Royal Academy of Arts, London 1976, p.9.