

The Chester Antiques & Fine Art Show

The County Grandstand, Chester Racecourse, Chester

23 – 26 October 2008

Organised by Penman Fairs Tel: 0870 350 2442

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Liverpool's Arthur Dooley Features at Chester Art & Antiques Show

The County Grandstand, Chester Racecourse, Chester, CH1 2LY

23 - 26 October 2008

A collection of three extremely rare works by the famous Liverpool sculptor Arthur Dooley (1929-1994) will be going on sale for the first time at The Chester Antiques & Fine Art Show from 23 – 26 October 2008 at the County Grandstand, Chester Racecourse.

The bronze sculptures, which depict elegant female forms, belong to Lancashire art dealer Steve Marsling, who acquired them direct from a foundry in Liverpool where Dooley had many of his sculptures made. They were originally acquired by the foundry owners as payment in lieu for others, which Dooley could not pay for at the time. Each sculpture is numbered 1 of a short series of 3 and is around 18” tall and weighs around 14lbs. Steve Marsling (Tel: 01457 834802) is selling the sculptures for around £2,000 each and is fervently hoping they will find new homes in Liverpool or around the Northwest, where Dooley is most admired.



The Chester Antiques & Fine Art Show features more than fifty-five exhibitors from across the country. With prices from less than £50 to more than £50,000, and more than 5,000 exhibits on sale, the show offers a wide range of art, antiques and collectors' items at prices to suit every pocket. All exhibits are strictly vetted for quality and authenticity, which ensures buyers can make their purchases with confidence. 'This aspect of quality control distinguishes our antiques event from so many others,' explains organiser Caroline Penman.

Arthur Dooley: Arthur Dooley enjoyed a fascinating life and chiefly remembered as one of Liverpool's most famous sculptors. After an eventful early life in the Irish Guards and spending three years in prison after a Court Martial for his sympathies with the PLO, he became a devout Catholic and embraced Communism. It was also while in military prison that he is said to have begun to make sculptures. When he left the army in 1953 he continued to study art, attending classes at Toynbee Hall in London. He went on to become a cleaner at St Martins College and continued his education by observing the students and making work from discarded materials and was eventually

given a one-man show by St Martins in 1961.

During the 1960s, he worked in several studios in Liverpool making large-scale works including 'The Stations of the Cross' for St Mary's church in Leyland (1965) He also appeared regularly on television, not only talking about sculpture, but also defending the rights of ordinary working class people in his native city. All this helped to make him something of a celebrity and his work was collected by the rich and famous, including Cliff Mitchelmore and Danny La Rue. He was even the subject of ITV's 'This is Your Life' in 1970.

In the 1970s he tried to develop a studio and art school in a converted pub in Woolton. He also continued to exhibit across Britain and carried out a number of commissions, including work on 'The Speakers Platform' at the Pier Head (1973). Politics was to remain central to his work. He campaigned for the redevelopment of the South Docks, the abolition of high-rise housing and for more help for the long-term unemployed . In 1974 he produced one of his most famous works, the Beatles memorial 'Four Lads Who Shook the World' on Matthew Street and in the 1980s founded a workshop for the unemployed in Kirkby.

It was during the 1980s that he also helped to found the Liverpool Academy of Arts and created his final studio at 36 Steel Street. However, by this time his work was becoming less fashionable and ill-health and financial problems also played their part in his demise. He died suddenly in 1994, but left an undoubted mark on Liverpool and has never been forgotten by those who knew him. Today, his studio and archive resides within The Liverpool Academy of Arts.

The Chester Antiques & Fine Art Show is open to the public, daily. Admission is £5.00pp.

DIARY INFORMATION

The Chester Antiques & Fine Art Show
The County Grandstand, Chester Racecourse, Chester.
23 - 26 October 2008

Admission: £5.00.

Times

Thursday 23 October 10.30am-6pm / Friday 24 October 10.30am-6pm
Saturday 25 October 10.30am-6pm / Sunday 26 October 10.30am-5pm

Organised by

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