**MEDIA INFORMATION**

**ATTENTION FORWARD PLANNING/WHAT’S ON 2024**

**Major new exhibition to showcase 35 rarely or previously unseen artworks by Norman Cornish and L S Lowry in summer 2024**

**The Bowes Museum’s *Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L S Lowry* exhibition unites two titans of northern art**

Over 50 paintings, drawings and sketchbooks by artists Norman Cornish and L S Lowry will be showcased at [The Bowes Museum](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/) from 20th July 2024 – 19th January 2025.

This powerful new exhibition at the County Durham Museum is celebrating the work of these two artists who were inspired by the north, capturing its distinctive identity, culture and roots. *Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L S Lowry* will spotlight the two artists who recorded life in their respective communities, Cornish very much immersed in his community and Lowry’s persective more of an outsider ‘looking in’. Both present a range of recognisable scenes across the region, in works depicting the warmth and welcome of a northern home, shared laughter and the heartbeat of northern communities as well as the beauty in the north east’s familiar landscapes.

More than half of the artwork on display are from collections in public galleries and private collections throughout the UK, with 35 rarely or previously unseen publicly before. These include timeless, intimate sketches of family scenes by Norman Cornish and captivating paintings of community life by L S Lowry, both providing evocative images of everyday life that visitors to Barnard Castle will be able to relate to.

The exhibition will bring together *Big Meeting 1947* by Norman Cornish –– and one of L S Lowry’s most well-recognised works, *The Procession 1927***.** Both artists’ works will be presented in a wider context through writings and stories from both artists and the wider community.

Norman Cornish (1919 – 2014) and L S Lowry (1887 – 1976) both had other careers before becoming artists. Norman Cornish was born, raised and worked as a miner in Spennymoor, County Durham from 1933 until 1966. He was a professional artist for more years than he was a miner, a fact often overlooked.

Although he was born in Stretford, Trafford, Greater Manchester and later lived in Mottram in Longdendale, the north east was hugely significant to L S Lowry too. He frequently took breaks from his work as a rent collector to visit Berwick-upon-Tweed and Sunderland to paint, noting that the north east was what he had “...always been looking for”.

As part of building a community of artists and makers, the curatorial team will work with local people to create engaging descriptions of the works on display. Together they will show how the universal themes these two artists capture will not just resonate with those from the north, but a much wider audience too.

*Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L S Lowry* is part of an ongoing programme of exciting exhibitions running in parallel to the world-class collection that is on permanent display. Easily accessible and only three hours from London via public transport, it is an evocative and relatable exhibition not to be missed.

To find out more about The Bowes Museum, visit [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors**

**Media materials**

A full press release containing more information about the exhibition, alongside high-res images and broadcast quality footage will be available in late spring/early summer 2024.

Interviews and filming with experts, either in person on site, via video call or phone call, can also be arranged.

**Media previews**

We will be holding a media preview prior to the exhibition opening. To arrange/register your interest in this, or to arrange a bespoke visit, please contact the Culture Communications Collective:

* Adela Cragg: adela@culturecommscollective.com / 07532 685 614
* Morag Wood: morag@culturecommscollective.com / 07976 081 044

**About The Bowes Museum**

The Bowes Museum is a charity managing a Grade 1 listed accredited museum and Grade 2 listed parkland in Barnard Castle. Founded by Joséphine & John Bowes 150+ years ago, this purpose-built Museum brings together an extraordinary, Designated collection of European fine and decorative art as a cultural resource for the people of Northern England, where today we celebrate artists, designers and makers.

The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people’s lives. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](https://74n5c4m7.r.eu-west-1.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.artscouncil.org.uk/1/0102018baa4b1778-bb4b9148-a8f4-4723-91a9-86fc3987a4fd-000000/3j8BapMN_TDVXDGHvTA0NYXK7nA%3D347)

The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service. [discoverdurham.co.uk](http://discoverdurham.co.uk)

Admission to The Bowes Museum is £13.50 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £15.50 for members (residents elsewhere), £18.00 for a day ticket, £19.80 for a day ticket  including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

As a registered charity (number 1079639) we need to generate more than half of our income each year to care for our historic collection, buildings and parkland. Your donations are vital to our work. Visit [https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/](https://74n5c4m7.r.eu-west-1.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support//1/0102018baa4b1778-bb4b9148-a8f4-4723-91a9-86fc3987a4fd-000000/Oq0pQ9JzJxIAosrmjAEed7uHHmQ%3D347) for more information.