



## Press Information

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Cooper Fairs

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### **'Lost' Manchester Artist's Tatton Park Steam Fair Painting Highlights New Year Tatton Park Antiques Fair**

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Paintings by Manchester's forgotten Impressionist painter, Alfred Ackrill (1907-1988), go on sale at The Tatton Park Antiques & Fine Fair, Knutsford, Cheshire from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011.



Alfred Ackrill was celebrated in an exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery in 2003 when, after his widow took his paintings to the curator for

evaluation, Ackrill was proclaimed a lost master. Now Lancashire art dealer Steve Marsling is offering for sale paintings by the artist including an oil painting view of "Steam Fair, Tatton Park", circa 1955. The painting vividly captures the fair with its trucks, cars, marquees and people on a blustery day. It is an atmospheric painting in the Impressionist style. Measuring 41cm x 57cm, it will be on sale for £2,200.

Says Steve Marsling: 'It is rare for Ackrill's works to come on to the open market and I am privileged to offer this unique work by a forgotten Manchester artist who is clearly one of Britain's most accomplished painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.'

Ackrill's story is fascinating. At the age of 78, he was persuaded to enter a competition for scenes depicting Manchester life. A retired builder's labourer from Oldham who had sketched and painted all his life, he won the top prize - a trip to Paris - and he and his wife, Florence, looked forward with excitement to their first trip abroad. They had spent most of their holidays in a caravan in north Wales. As they were applying for their passports, they received a call from the competition's organiser; the runner-up had complained that Ackrill's winning picture was of Chester, not Manchester, and the contest was declared null and void.

Ackrill had learned to love the work of the Impressionists from seeing illustrations in books, but he was never to see the pictures themselves in the great galleries of France. Undaunted,

he continued with his work and was still sketching two days before he died aged 81 in 1988.

Born in Sheffield, Ackrill had shown an early talent for art but was unable to take up a scholarship at Oldham college of art because his family was very poor. Instead, he produced thousands of pictures in his spare time, often painting over completed works because he could not afford new canvasses.

The Tatton Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair will be the Northwest's first, prestige fair of the New Year. Fifty leading dealers from across the UK will offer for sale a wide range of antiques and fine art with prices from less than £25 to more than £25,000. The very is very popular with collectors and connoisseurs who travel from across the region, the Midlands and beyond. Exhibits are vetted for quality and authenticity and the fair will be the fourth to be organised by Cooper Fairs since its re-launch in March last year.

**Tatton Park** was named 'Cheshire's Large Visitor Attraction of the Year' in 2004 and 2005 and is one of the North West's most popular destinations.

*Open Daily 11am-5pm / Admission £5.00pp.  
(Vehicle admission to Tatton Park £5.00)*

**Cooper Fairs**

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