



# Dame Laura Knight Society

## Newsletter December 2022

At the end of an interesting, 'getting back to normal' year, we would like to send you our very best Christmas greetings and bring you up-to-date with society news.

*DAME LAURA KNIGHT, British (1877-1970), "Winter, Figures Skating (Winter)", 1916, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 inches*

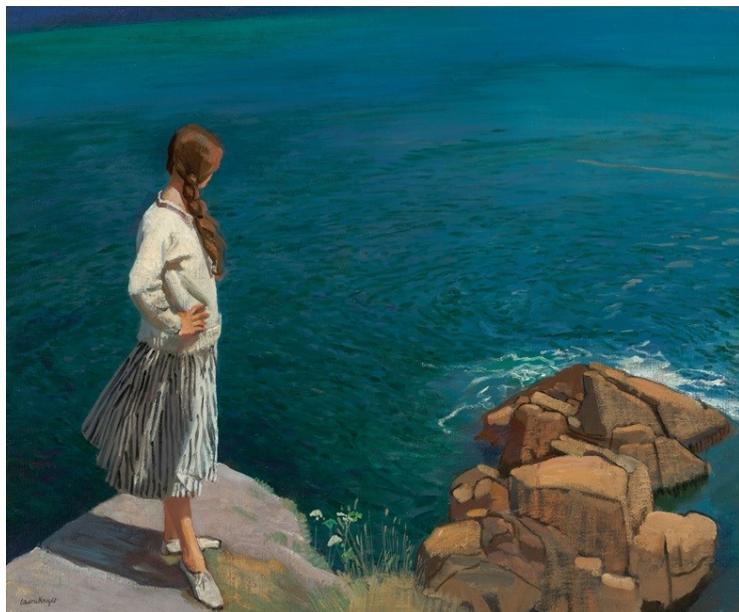


This painting by Laura Knight captures the essence of winter so well – the low beams of cold sunshine, pockets of frost and the abandonment of normal life in favour of skating fun. This may seem anachronistic in today's fast pace of life but nonetheless it is a charming scene which continues to bring enjoyment more than 100 years since it was painted.

Interestingly, this painting came up for auction earlier this year at Shannon's, Milford, Connecticut, US, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2022. **What price did it sell for? See our review of DLK 2022 sales on page 7.**

But first, some news of an **auction of Dame Laura Knight's work** a little closer to home - **at Christie's December 13th** and at **Sotheby's December 14th 2022**.

Dame Laura Knight, R.A., R.W.S (1877-1970), *At the Edge of the Cliff*, 1917. Oil on canvas. 23 x 28 in (58.4 x 71.1 cm). Estimate: £350,000-450,000. Offered in British and European Art: Part I on 13 December 2022 at Christie's in London



The painting features Marjorie Taylor, who often modelled for Knight. The success of this painting and others in LK's exhibition at the Leicester Galleries in 1917 helped to establish her reputation as an artist and it was a pivotal moment in her career.

There is a video and an excellent resume of Laura Knight's career by Christie's. Here is the link:

<https://www.christies.com/features/dame-laura-knight-12555-3.aspx>



Another of Laura Knight's much loved works is featured in **Sotheby's sale** on December 14<sup>th</sup>, **The Theatre Wardrobe**.

Property from a British Private Collection

Dame Laura Knight, R.A., R.W.S.  
British  
1877 - 1972

*The Theatre Wardrobe*

signed *Laura Knight* lower left  
oil on canvas

Unframed: 96 by 65cm., 38 by 25½in.

Framed: 110 by 80cm., 43 by 31½in

Est: £50,000 - £70,000

£50,000 0 bids

The catalogue for the Sotheby's auction is worth a read as there are some lovely examples of British impressionists such as Dorothea Sharp and Harold Harvey in addition to the pieces by Laura Knight.

Here is the link:

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2022/european-british-art>

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## **Article: Medal awarded to Derbyshire artist Dame Laura Knight sells at auction**

BBC East Midlands News



**A medal awarded to one of Britain's most celebrated artists has been sold at auction.**

The silver medal was presented to Dame Laura Knight in 1894 in recognition of her work. Auctioneers said the engraved medal, bearing her maiden name Johnson, had fetched £850.

The artist was born in Long Eaton, in Derbyshire, in 1877 and was raised in Nottingham. Dame Laura Knight received the medal in 1894.



The medal, part of a private collection, was presented to her by the Science and Art Department of the South Kensington Museum, now London's V&A Museum. It was predicted to fetch between £500 and £800 and was auctioned by Nottingham-based Arthur Johnson and Sons.

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### **Forthcoming Exhibition News**

#### **1. Exhibition at Worcester Art Gallery**

**British Impressionism     March - June 2023**

[www.damelauraknightsociety.co.uk](http://www.damelauraknightsociety.co.uk)

This exhibition will feature paintings by Laura Knight, Stanhope Forbes and Walter Langley. Those of you who have visited Penlee Gallery in Penzance will be familiar with these artists from the Newlyn Colony and we plan to arrange a guided tour of the exhibition for society members. Final details of the exhibition are being drawn up over the next month then we shall be in touch with you about the date of the society visit.

I am hoping this will be an opportunity to see the two paintings by Laura Knight recently acquired by the gallery. They are 'Lake Windermere – a view from Orrest Head' and 'Beulah'- wonderful additions to the gallery's permanent collection.



Left: *Beulah no.2* Painted at Iver Common, Bucks. Undated. Oil on canvas.

Below: *Lake Windermere – a view from Orrest Head*.



2. **Penlee Gallery, Penzance**

3<sup>rd</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Lamorna Colony Pioneers

Curated by David Tovey

3. **St Ives Museum**

April – October 2023

Discovering St Ives – Early visiting artists

Curated by David Tovey

There will be about 30 paintings in this exhibition which will include a number of very early watercolours of St Ives from the Royal Cornwall collection which no-one knew about when 'The Dawn of the Colony' exhibition was held at The Tate St Ives in 2008. This exhibition is an important landmark in St Ives in that

it will be the first exhibition dedicated to representational art for a very long time.

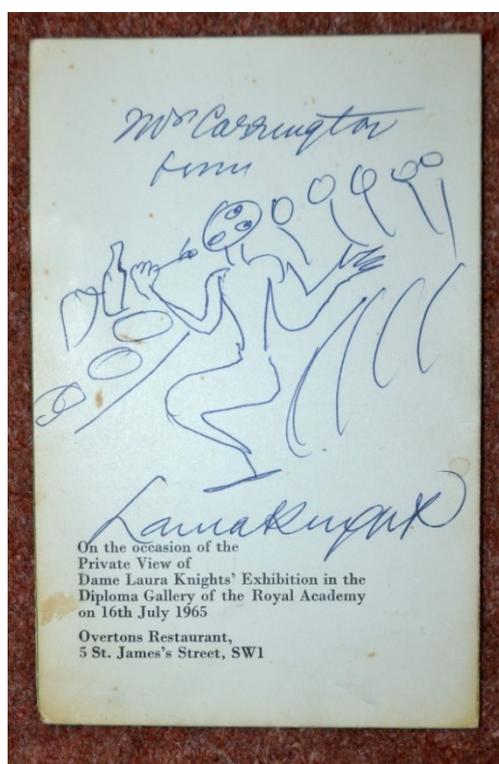
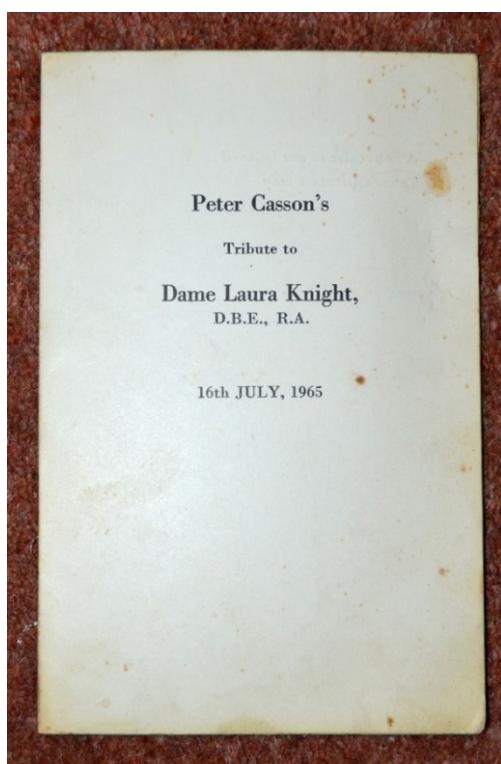
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### Article: Overton's Restaurant Menu for Dame Laura Knight's Celebration Meal

Earlier in the year, the society received the following email about a menu:

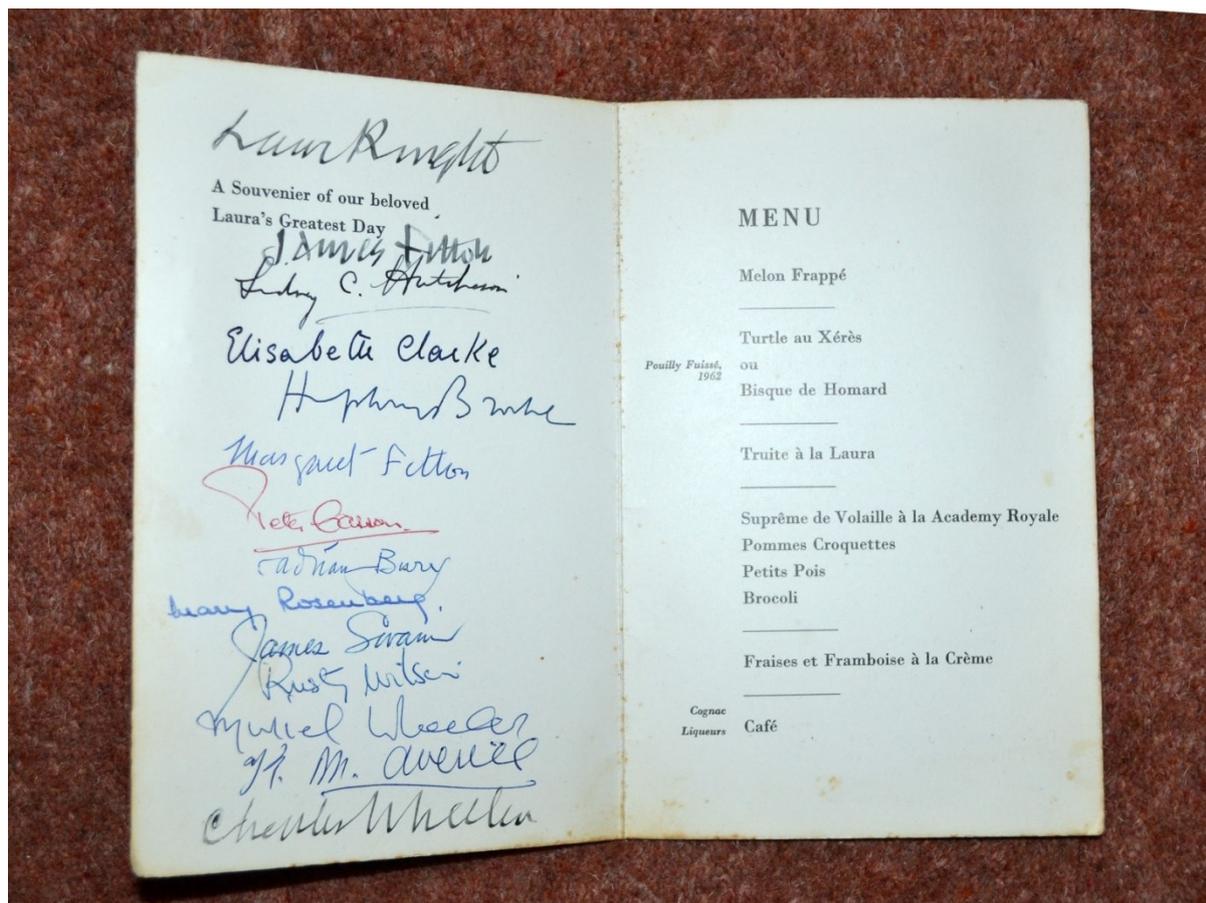
This menu (below) was given to my mother-in-law Mrs Carrington by James Fitton who had asked Dame Laura Knight to draw the sketch and sign it. My husband's family knew the Fitton family very well.

Thank you again for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you. Christine Carrington



Charges to pay s. d.	POST OFFICE	No. OFFICE STAMP
RECEIVED	+ 39 16TH 5 + TS777/TGMSLN	22 JUL 65
At _____ m	Prefix. Time name no. Code of origin	By _____ m
From _____	1/17 1.10 MAIDVALE TS 32	By _____
By _____	MRS AVERILL INDIAN-SUMMER 39 CASTLE DRIVE PALMOUTH-CVLL	
	= MARJORIE AVERILL AND MARY ROSENBERG ARE INVITED LAURA KNIGHT LUNCHEON 16TH JULY MAJOR CASSON	
	ASSEMBLE TWELVE OCLOCK OVERTONS RESTAURANT 5 STJAMES'S STREET REPLY URGENT - LAURA	
	FOR FREE REPLY OR INFORMATION CALL OR call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.	B or C

The menu was of particular interest to the society for two reasons: firstly, it was Dame Laura's celebratory meal on the occasion of the Private View of her exhibition at the R.A. 1965 and it has signatures of the guests present and doodles by Dame Laura; and secondly, two of the signatures are relatives of society member, Mike Averill. See left, telegram invitation from Laura to the Averills



Here are some comments from Mike Averill:

*My own connection is that my Grandmother K M Averill was invited to a private viewing of an exhibition of DLK's work at the Royal Academy and at the meal at Overton's Restaurant, some of the attendees signed the menu including my Grandmother and her daughter Mary Rosenberg.*

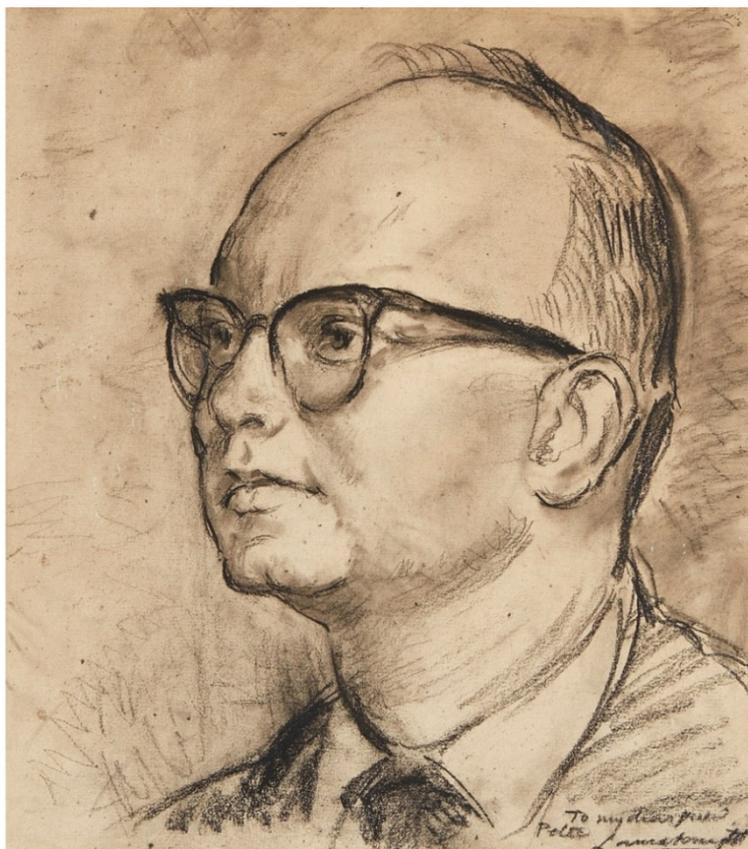
*My family's signatures are not worth anything but Charles & Muriel Wheeler's are worth something (Sir Charles Thomas Wheeler, PRA, PRBS (1892-1974) was a very well-known figure sculptor in bronze and stone, and a painter of figure subjects and landscapes.) (Muriel Wheeler, née Bourne (British sculptor and painter) 1888 – 1979).*

*Also signed is Major Peter Casson (DLK did a painting of Peter Casson and signed it to my dear friend Peter)*

**Note:** Major Peter Casson was Deputy Assistant Adjutant - General of the British War Crimes Executive based at the Courthouse, Nuremberg who first met Laura Knight at Nuremberg. He was responsible together with Captain Marsh and Captain Watts-Russell for the care, pass and travel arrangements of the artist whilst performing her commission on the Trials in 1946.

They became firm friends for the rest of her life to such an extent that he shared with four others in the residuary assets of her Estate on her death and Casson read the Lesson at her memorial service.

Sketch of Peter Casson by Laura Knight Signed: 'To my dear friend Peter, Laura Knight'



The Chair is happy to report that, following further discussion with Christine Carrington, the menu has been bought by the society for £125 and it is now in the society archive.

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### News of 2022 auction sales of paintings by Laura and Harold Knight



'Winter' by Laura Knight 1916

sold for \$40,000 (**£32,000**)

October 27<sup>th</sup> Shannon's, CT, US

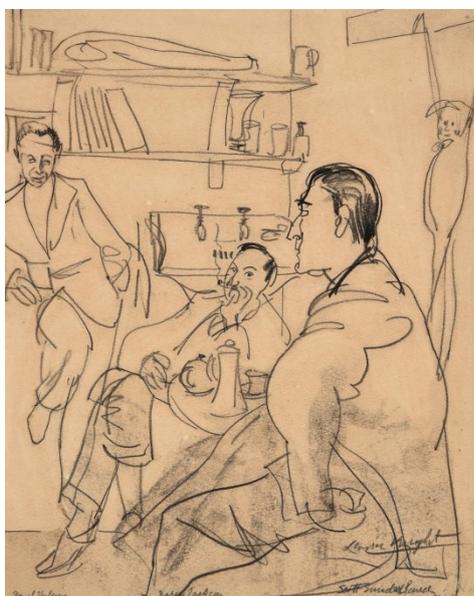


Lot 76: DAME LAURA KNIGHT (BRITISH 1877-1970)  
LES SYLPHIDES

Est: £1,000 - £1,500

Sold: **£1,100**

Dreweatts 1759 Fine Sales, October 19, 2022,  
Newbury, United Kingdom



Lot 74: DAME LAURA KNIGHT (BRITISH 1877-1970), PAUL SHELBY, BARRY JACKSON,  
SCOTT SUNDERLAND

Est: £1,500 - £2,000

Sold: **£2,000**

Dreweatts 1759 Fine Sales October 19, 2022  
Newbury, United Kingdom



Lot 23: Dame Laura Knight, RA, RWS  
(British, 1877-1970) 'The end of a perfect day' Est: £800 - £1,200

Sold: **£800**

[Bonhams](https://www.bonhams.com) March 9, 2022 London, United Kingdom



Lot 64: POSTER designed by *LAURA KNIGHT (1877-1970)*. *THE YORKSHIRE COAST*. 1929. 39½x49¼ inches, 100¼x125 cm. John Waddington Ltd., London.

Est: \$4,000 - \$6,000

Sold: \$5,000 (£4,069)

[Swann Auction Galleries](#) November 10, 2022 New York, NY, US

**Harold Knight RA** (British, 1874-1961) *A Fisherwoman* signed 'Harold Knight' (lower right) watercolour on paper 35 x 29cm

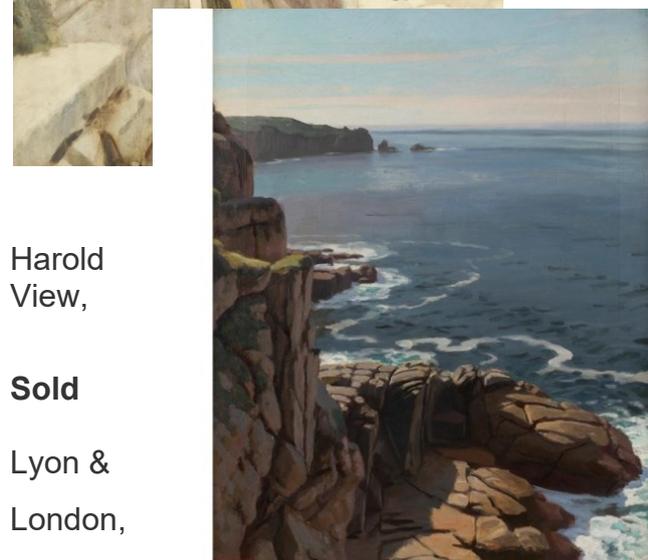


[The Art & Design Sale](#)

by  
[Cheffins](#)

February 24, 2022, 10:00 AM GMT  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Sold for £2,600**



Harold  
View,

**Sold**

Lyon &  
London,

Knight (British 1874-1961) *Clifftop  
Land's End*  
Est: £10,000 - £15,000

**£12,000**

Apr. 29, 2022  
Turnbull

BRK, UK

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## And finally, news of FORTHCOMING DLKS EVENTS

**March 2023** Visit to exhibition at Worcester Art Gallery British Impressionism. Date to be decided.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** 3pm Colwall Village Hall: Talk by Marcia Whiting, curator at Munnings Museum: Life and Works of AJ Munnings

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We are most grateful for your support as a member of the society and very much welcome your comments on any matters concerning Laura Knight or the society. The best way to do this is on the 'Contact Us' page of the society website : [www.damelauraknightsociety.co.uk](http://www.damelauraknightsociety.co.uk), and we look forward to welcoming you to an event in the New Year. With two wonderful exhibitions in Cornwall this summer, perhaps now is the time to plan a return visit to this stunning area? Watch this space.....

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and we wish you good health and happiness in 2023.

Evie Knight (Chair) and the DLKS Committee

