



**1**  
Cornelius David Krieghoff, Canadian 1815-1872, Chopping Logs outside a snow covered log cabin, 29 x 51cm. Lyon & Turnbull, Edinburgh. May 08. HP: £29,000. ABP: £34,111.



**2**  
Louis le Brocqy (b.1916) oil on canvas, 'Man Turning' from artist's so-called White Period, signed, 24 x 20in Woolley & Wallis, Salisbury. Jul 08. HP: £45,000. ABP: £52,931.



**3**  
Sir Kyffin Williams KBE, RA (1918-2006) 'A Welsh Farm' oil on canvas, signed with initials, 51 x 62cm. Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Apr 08. HP: £26,000. ABP: £30,582.



**4**  
Steven Campbell (1953-2007) gouache, 'Man looking through a stained glass window', signed recto, labelled verso (Exhibited Glasgow School of Art - Tribute to Cyril Gerber Show 1986 and televised on STV by Clare Henry) 20 x 15.5in. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Apr 08. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,528.



**5**  
John Bellany RA b.1942-, Cottages and woodland along a river shore, oil on canvas, signed, 91 x 121.7cm, unframed. Rosebery's, London. Jun 08. HP: £2,100. ABP: £2,470.



**6**  
John Byrne (b1940) water-colour 'Pig's Head', signed, 6 x 10.75in. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Feb 08. HP: £600. ABP: £705.



**7**  
Alan Dyer (b.1944) Utopian Painting, signed/dated 1980, inscribed verso, oil on canvas 153 x 164cm. Swordsers, Stansted Mountfitchet. Sep 07. HP: £720. ABP: £846.

Chris Murray has selected these images, from our database from sales during the last few years.



**8**  
BRAAQ (Brian Shields), The Old Bag Won't Serve Me, oil, signed on board, dated '79, inscribed verso, 11.25 x 15in, gilt frame. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Apr 05. HP: £2,100. ABP: £2,470.



**9**  
BRAAQ (Brian Shields), Canal at Runcorn, signed/inscribed 'Ann', on board, label verso dated 1984, 17 x 20.5in, gilt frame. Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 07. HP: £4,200. ABP: £4,940.



**10**  
Brian A Shields (BRAAQ), Industrial Landscape, signed Braaq, on board, 13 x 19.5in, ebonised frame. Hartleys, Ilkley. Apr 08. HP: £7,000. ABP: £8,233.

## The Art Market: A selection of paintings from our Database which should prove to be good investments for the future

By Chris Murray

It's always pleasing to be reminded that there are of course undiscovered works out there, and that they have given and will continue to give unsuspecting owners a pleasant surprise. In this case it was a small oil painting bought forty years ago in the Glasgow Barras market, from which many good works have emerged over the years for a mere 'ten bob.' Neither the name nor, frankly, the painting, promised very much, but the nineteenth century Canadian painter Cornelius David Krieghoff (1815-1872) is in fact keenly collected in Canada, and when the picture sold in Edinburgh in May last year it achieved a very satisfying hammer price of £29,000. (1) The story of Glasgow Barras market is interesting in itself. Shortly after the turn of the century in about 1900, a young woman created a trading situation in the east end of Glasgow, which has now become renowned throughout the world as 'The Barras'. Margaret Russell, daughter of an Ayrshire policeman got her first taste of business at the tender age of twelve, when she looked after a fruit barrow belonging to her mother's friend, in a street in Parkhead, Glasgow. She thrived in this environment and saved up enough money to open a small fruit shop in Bridgeton. It was during one of her regular visits to the fruit market that she met James McIver, whom she later married. Together they set up business at a yard in the district of Calton where they rented out horses and carts to traders who hawked around the wealthier streets of Glasgow. Soon they acquired more ground, this time in Moncur Street where they rented out static barrows to traders to trade to the public on Saturday mornings. Among much more familiar figures, an abstract by the Irish artist Louis le Brocqy (1916-) reached £45,000 (in the UK), a sign that the market in Irish art (which we looked at during 2008) is still doing well. (2) Works by the Welshman Kyffin Williams are holding their own, with Shrewsbury (where in fact he went to school) being a good place to sell. (3) At a more affordable level, three well-known Scots of the same generation have performed much as expected: a small but typical Steven Campbell (1953-2007) for £3,000, (4) a John Bellany (1942-) landscape for £2,100, which suggests his landscapes are steadily gaining favour (5) and an extraordinary watercolour by John Byrne (1940-) of a pig's head that seems to be smiling wryly, (6) which would make a wonderful cover for a *River Cottage* cookbook.

There are not many works by Alan Dyer (1944-) around, so it was interesting to see his Utopia, bristling with the quirky humour of the 1970s and 1980s, appearing in September 2007. (7) His recent works are abstract. An artists whose stock has been rising steadily since his premature death eleven years ago is Brian Shields (1951-1997), who signed himself Braaq. (a play on Braque) His works are firmly in the 'Northern Nostalgia' category being mostly based on his recollections of his childhood in Liverpool, with such titles as 'Me and Me Mam in Sefton Park.' He produced street scenes full of sunny colours, (8) single figures that parody Lowry, and very similar sunsets suffused with sulphurous yellows. (9, 10) Interestingly, he doesn't yet feature in the small but very active northern artists market, (William Turner, Theodore Major, James Lawrence Isherwood, Harold Riley, Arthur Delaney, Helen Bradley, and Co.) perhaps because his works are nearly always auctioned in Ilkley. A few years ago a typical Braaq would have reached around £2,000-3,000.

The market strongly prefers works to which a name can be attached, but the broad catch-alls English/British School often provides fascinating works for those with the patience to watch and wait. Take (11) certainly an iconic image of the Second World War, with an exhausted air raid warden resting the morning after another air raid, St Paul's rising proudly in the background - a scene typical of the photo covers of *Picture Post*. But for a work that was not only unframed but unstretched, and by an unknown artist, £55,000 was astonishing, especially at the moment. More surprising was the result for a nineteenth century drawing. (12) Last year albums of similar drawing by Lady Anne Blunt reached very high prices (see May/June edition), but £36,000 for a single drawing marks an extraordinary development in this corner of the market, even if the buyers believed they could identify the artist. Perhaps it was destined for the Middle East.

Animals feature often in the English/British School category. To cite just a couple of recent examples: a finely (i.e. almost certainly professionally) executed

study of farmyard animals (13) sold for £1,350, while a naive but charming image of two dogs (14) for £480. Landscapes are also plentiful: an elegant landscape redolent of the eighteenth century passion for the neoclassical style of Claude Lorrain (even though it may have been painted later than the eighteenth century) sold for a well-deserved £2,400. See 15.

Portraits also feature prominently, and come in all styles, types and degrees of accomplishment. With his resplendent uniform and his open and friendly gaze, the general is (16) straight out of Thackeray and was certainly not expensive at £300, especially as he seems to be an identified individual. With its hints of the Pre-Raphaelite, the tender if slightly insipid image of a young boy (17) contrasts with the altogether more characterful depiction of a young girl, (18) her direct and quizzical gaze given a sombre cast by the curiously dark, almost infernal background. Quite Dickensian, to continue the literary theme.

For those with a taste for portraits and figure studies, the first half of the twentieth century provides a wealth of opportunities. The period produced a wide range of excellent artists whose works, overshadowed by those variously associated with the avant-garde, or simply failing to catch the market's attention, are often very good value for money. Recent examples range from the delightfully humorous trumpet player (19) by George Frederick Arthur Belcher (1875-1947) to the superb and curiously chaste nude (20) by Harry Dixon (1861-1942), who is much better known for his animals, especially big cats. I prefer the nude which was featured on the front cover of the January/February edition of *Antiques Info*.

Two fine, intimate portraits by Charles Burleigh (1875-1956) sold at the same auction in September make an interesting contrast. The portrait of his wife (21) reached £850, while that of his daughter (22) only £480. Though the first is a sensitive characterization, finely executed, a portrait of a thoughtful middle-aged woman would not normally be expected to sell for more than a depiction of a delightful and clearly very spirited young girl. This may be explained by the fact that his wife, Averil Burleigh (1883-1949), was also an accomplished artist. Both fine portraits, both (I think) great value. Works by Burleigh can be seen in the Brighton and Hove Museums. Far better known for his posters, which themselves fetch good prices, Francis Ernest Jackson (1872-1945) also painted a few portraits, his style, so typical of British portraiture, being sensitive, observant and unpretentious. (23) He was also a war artist during the First World War.

A rather neglected figure from this period is Thomas Binney Gibbs (1870-1947), who has never attracted real attention and seldom reaches high figures. A couple of years ago a very attractive oil portrait of a young woman sold at Christie's in London for £600. (which included the buyer's premium) £110 for a fine portrait, (24) albeit in watercolour, was absurdly undervalued, though also, to change the perspective, another example of the extraordinary bargains that the UK art market constantly produces.

There is promise of an interesting year ahead.



11  
British School, early-mid 20thC, Air raid warden sitting amongst bombed rubble after the blitz, distant St Paul's Cathedral surrounded by barrage balloons & burning buildings, oil on canvas, 153 x 110cm, rolled, unstretched, unframed. Rosebery's, London. Jan 08. HP: £5,500. ABP: £6,469.



12  
English School (19thC), study of 2 Arabian gentlemen with horses, unsigned, pencil and watercolour sketch, 6 x 8.25in, gilt frame. Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Drifffield. Jul 08. HP: £36,000. ABP: £42,345.



13  
19thC English School, calves, oil on canvas. Cotswold Auction Co, Cirencester. May 08. HP: £1,350. ABP: £1,587.



14  
19thC English School, oil on canvas, English Setters in a landscape, 30 x 48in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 08. HP: £480. ABP: £564.



15  
Late 18th/early 19thC English School, landscape with cattle, a bridge and a town in the distance, oil in canvas, 95 x 122cm. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Apr 08. HP: £2,400. ABP: £2,823.



16  
British School 19thC, portrait of an officer; traditionally held to be Lieutenant General Sir Robert Bolton 1763-1836, Aide de Camp to George III, 1805 and Equerry to George IV; head and shoulders, oil on canvas, 53.5 x 44cm. Rosebery's, London. Jul 07. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



17  
English School mid 19thC, Portrait of a boy, standing half-length on a terrace, oil on panel, signed with monogram 'JG' and dated 1851, 16.5 x 13cm. Rosebery's, London. Jun 08. HP: £460. ABP: £541.



18  
English School, oil, Portrait of a Young Girl, standing and holding a book, three quarter length, unsigned on panel, late 18th/19thC, 9.75 x 7.75in, gilt frame. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 08. HP: £680. ABP: £799.



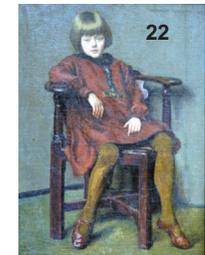
19  
George Frederick Arthur Belcher RA 1875-1947, I Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls, oil on canvas, signed, 99.5 x 105cm. Rosebery's, London. Mar 08. HP: £6,000. ABP: £7,057.



20  
Harry Dixon (1861-1942) oil on canvas, Reclining nude, Exhibited 1937 R.A., 27.5 x 36in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 08. HP: £1,200. ABP: £1,411.



21  
Charles H.H. Burleigh (1875-1956) oil on canvas, Portrait of Averil Burleigh, signed, 26.5 x 21in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 08. HP: £850. ABP: £999.



22  
Charles H.H. Burleigh (1875-1956) Portrait of Veronica Burleigh (daughter of artist), oil on canvas, signed, 23.5 x 17.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 08. HP: £480. ABP: £564.



23  
Francis Ernest Jackson, unsigned oil painting on canvas impressionist portrait study, 'Head of a Girl', Beaux Arts Gallery label verso. 17.5 x 15.5in. Biddle & Webb, Birmingham. Oct 08. HP: £440. ABP: £517.



24  
Thomas Binney Gibbs (1870-1947) watercolour, Portrait of a young woman, signed and dated 1936, 14.25 x 10.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 08. HP: £110. ABP: £129.