

# Press release: £11 million drawing at risk of export

- 500 year old drawing is one of only 28 by the artist known to survive
- Only drawing by Lucas van Leyden not held in a museum collection

Arts Minister Michael Ellis has placed an export bar on a 500 year old drawing worth £11.4 million in a bid to keep it in the country.

The work, A Young Man Standing, by Dutch artist Lucas van Leyden, is one of only 28 drawings by the artist known to survive and his only drawing not held in a museum collection.

Lucas van Leyden (about 1494 – 1533) was primarily famous for his skills as a printmaker. He was the first artist from the Netherlands to gain international fame comparable to that of German Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt and Rubens a century later.

This drawing is thought to be a study for a projected engraving. It depicts a young man in contemporary clothing and was probably drawn from life. The sitter is most likely a nobleman – or a studio model posing as one – given the sword he is shown wearing.

It is believed to date from around 1520. Early in its history the drawing was stuck onto another sheet, perhaps by a collector to better preserve it, suggesting that even then works by van Leyden were considered precious.

Arts Minister Michael Ellis said:

This incredibly rare work by Lucas van Leyden is a true treasure. The drawing showcases his skill as an artist and acts as a record of the 16th century world.

I hope that we are able to keep this work in the UK so that the public can enjoy it.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the drawing's outstanding aesthetic importance and its significance for the study of the works of Lucas van Leyden.

Reviewing Committee member Aidan Weston-Lewis said:

Apparently drawn directly from a dressed-up model in the studio, this exquisitely crafted drawing offers a charming and rare glimpse into the world of this brilliant but elusive artist.

Van Leyden's inclusion of credible, contemporary characters like this in his narrative compositions lends them an appealing

conviction, and anticipates the work of Pieter Bruegel the Elder later in the century.

One of a small group of the artist's drawings to have come down to us, this sheet is unlike any of the others in this country and every effort should be made to retain it.

The decision on the export licence application for the drawing will be deferred until 17 July 2019. This may be extended until 17 December 2019 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £11,483,750 plus VAT of £296,750.

Images of the drawing can be downloaded from [Flickr](#).

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the drawing should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

Details of the drawing are as follows:

- Lucas van Leyden (about 1494 – 1533) A Young Man Standing
- Black chalk, watermark pot with two handles, cut and laid down 11 x 51/8 inches (27.9 x 13.2cm)

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.

The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).

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## **Press release: Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan visits Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan has visited Kazakhstan

to strengthen the UK-Kazakhstan relationship.

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## Press release: Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan visits Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan



FCO Minister Sir Alan Duncan has visited Nur-Sultan, the newly-renamed capital of Kazakhstan, following the resignation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev after almost 30 years of leadership.

Sir Alan Duncan was welcomed by Prime Minister Askar Mamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs Beibut Atamkulov, Chair of the Senate Dariga Nazarbayeva and Chair of the Majilis Nurlan Nigmatulin, ensuring that our strong government-to-government contacts flourish throughout this time of leadership change in Kazakhstan. He also visited the Astana International Financial Centre. The Minister for Europe and the Americas reaffirmed the UK's close ties with Kazakhstan and our shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous Central Asia.

Speaking after the visit, Sir Alan Duncan said:

The recent resignation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev was a momentous event in the history of Kazakhstan, and Central Asia. At this important moment of transition, I would like to express the UK's best wishes to the First President Nursultan Nazarbayev, his successor Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and to the country.

Kazakhstan is an important partner for the UK. During my visit we discussed how the UK and Kazakhstan could further our shared objectives for stability and security in Central Asia and the wider region. Both countries are committed to strengthening our bilateral relationship and to develop our already strong commercial ties including in legal services and higher education.

Last year, we celebrated the opening of the Astana International

Financial Centre – the first international financial centre established in Central Asia with a special legal regime based on the principles of English law.

Since independence in 1991, UK investment in Kazakhstan has totalled over £20bn. As one of Kazakhstan's top investors, we are confident that the close links between our two countries will continue to flourish and expand in the years to come.

## Further information

Published 18 April 2019

Last updated 24 April 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 24 April 2019 We are adding a Russian translation to the press release
2. 18 April 2019 First published.

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## News story: Watersports participation on the rise

The annual watersports participation survey showed that approximately 3.9m UK adults took part in one or more of 12 core boating activities<sup>1</sup> in 2018, a rise of around 1.1% on the previous year, thanks in part to 2018 being the joint hottest summer on record.

This equates to a volume increase of 700,000 people with the highest participation rates for any activity coming from family groups. The number of young people and women has increased significantly in 2018.

The survey showed that canoeing was the most popular of all boating activities and that the long term growth trend of canoeing remains at a four percent year on year increase with 2.1m people going paddling at least once a year, in canoes, kayaks or stand up paddleboards.

The number of people who own boats has increased by around 800,000, since the beginning of the survey.

Guin Batten, head of strategy and development, said: "Last year we saw a small dip in the overall number of canoeists and kayakers, this was offset by an increase in the number of stand up paddleboarders, so the overall number of paddlers getting out onto the water is still growing."

The watersports participation survey is conducted annually by a consortium of leading marine bodies including British Marine, Royal Yachting Association (RYA), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), British Canoeing (BC) and the Centre for Environment,

Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).

<sup>1</sup> 'The 12 core boating activities' covers small sail boat racing, other small sail boat activities, yacht racing, yacht cruising, power boating, general motor boating/cruising, canal boating, canoeing, rowing/sculling, windsurfing, water skiing and wakeboarding and using personal watercraft.

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## **Press release: Trustees to mitigate the effect of unequal GMP's on pension income**

Guidance developed by government and an industry working group has been published today.