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- **Antiques industry proves resilient at National Fine Art & Antiques Fair**

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The National Fine Art & Antiques Fair celebrated one of the most successful fairs yet at the NEC last weekend, with thousands defying the credit crunch to purchase works of art and antiques.

Sales recorded across the fair included two original Lowry drawings, a £25,000 fine original watercolour by Edmund Dulac, four large sculptures by Vivien Mallock (two at £15,000 each) and a rare Regency mahogany architects table at £8,500.

More than 7,000 visitors attended the fair, looking to spend their cash on works of art, fine period furniture, ceramics and jewellery. Nineteenth and twentieth century bronze sculpture also proved popular, with specialist dealers selling keenly throughout the five day fair.

Mike Melody, owner of Melody's Antiques and ITV antiques expert, was delighted to sell more than half of the pieces he was displaying at the fair. Mike said "I think trade is turning a corner. At last, more people are realising that antiques have a genuine value."

Glenn Rowles of Rowles Fine Art also enjoyed a successful fair. Glenn said: "Over the last few months the economic climate has encouraged buyers, who have previously only thought about investing in art, to actually purchase. Customers have decided that now is the time to invest in art and antiques rather than losing money in shares or property."

Show organiser Tiffany Pritchard said: "We're delighted that the fair was such a success and that our visitors enjoyed the variety of art and antiques on offer at Fair.

"We are now busy preparing for Antiques for Everyone in April, where we are expecting another exciting fair for both visitors and dealers."

Antiques for Everyone is Britain's largest vetted and datelined antiques fair with over 400 specialist dealers from around the world on hand to advise visitors on the high quality authenticated antiques, fine art and objets d'art on sale.

The Antiques for Everyone fair opens at the NEC in Birmingham on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April and runs until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Admission will be £12 on the day or £10 in advance. Visitors to the fair also benefit from free parking and a free visitor guide.

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