

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 25 July 2013

CHRISTIE'S **OUT OF THE ORDINARY** EXHIBITION SET TO CREATE A MONTH OF INTRIGUE AHEAD OF SALE

FROM A FLYING MACHINE TO A 1950s CELEBRITY ROBOT AND FRANCIS
BACON'S PAINTBRUSHES...

Special extended exhibition runs 5 August – 5 September 2013

Auction of 155 items on 5 September at South Kensington

Estimates range from £1,000 up to £200,000



South Kensington, London – Christie's will be staging a one-off extended exhibition to preview a host of eclectic and fascinating items on offer in the *Out of the Ordinary* sale on 5 September 2013. Building on the success of *The London Sale* and summer exhibition held in 2012, the display will be open for five weeks from 5 August, offering visitors an exclusive opportunity to view pieces rarely seen on the market.

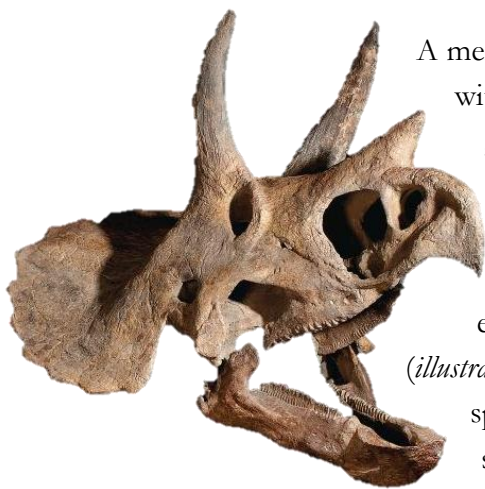
Spanning all eras from the prehistoric natural world to the surreal realm of science fiction, the intriguing items are sure to prove popular with visitors to buzzing central London. Comprising over 150 lots ranging from around £1,000 to £200,000, this unique exhibition and auction will offer inspiration to those with a range of interests and will appeal to new and established collectors.

Charlotte Young, Head of Sale, commented: *"Out of the Ordinary is a tightly curated one-off sale offering a unique opportunity to acquire something a little different from Christie's South Kensington. Each lot has been selected as either visually striking or with an intriguing story to tell, and many have never before been seen at auction. I cannot wait to welcome the public to the extended exhibition in August and to witness their reaction to the juxtaposition of such diverse lots as a Triceratops skull with a Rolls Royce turbine fan. It is definitely a sale full of surprises that will excite the imagination."*



Highlights of the exhibition and auction include a 'flying machine' known as the **'Waxflatter' Ornithopter** from Steven Spielberg's 1980s film production 'The Young Sherlock Holmes' (*illustrated above on page 1*). Estimated to fetch £50,000 – 80,000, the ornithopter was made to be operational, flapping its wings through pedal power.

Cygan, a giant robot made in 1957 and a veritable celebrity of the 1950s and 60s is another of the astonishing items in the sale. The eight-foot giant is a monumental relic of the atomic age (estimate: £8,000 – 12,000, *illustrated right*). It was one of the most sophisticated robots of its time with an ability to accept spoken commands and respond to light rays. When presented at London Olympia in 1958 Cygan amazed crowds, walking around the auditorium and even showing off some dance moves.



A menagerie of animals will roam the auction rooms with every kind of beast from a triceratops to a **giant rocking horse** the size of a two-storey house (estimate: £25,000 – 40,000, *illustrated below*). The **Triceratops skull** excavated from private land in the U.S. is estimated to fetch £150,000 – £250,000

(*illustrated left*). With its three-horned head, the triceratops is one of the most famous species of dinosaur and is one of the most easily recognised. One of the last survivors before the fatal mass-extinction triggered by an asteroid 65 million years ago, these 30-foot long herbivores lived with the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The horns and recognisable bony frill were probably used as defense against this fearsome foe.

Other extraordinary creatures include a wood and hide model of a saddler's horse, a **large illuminated pierced brass sculpture of a rhino**, (estimate: £8,000 – 10,000, *illustrated left*) and a **rare North Italian Taxidermy Ostrich, dated 1785** (estimate: £8,000 - 12,000, *illustrated above, on page 1*). This magnificent early taxidermy specimen in its purpose-built glazed case is thought to have once been housed in the renowned menagerie of the Villa Arconati, Lombardy. The impressive villa was nicknamed "Little Versailles" because of its ornate landscaped gardens conceived in the 17th Century

French taste and was inhabited by Galeazzo Arconati Visconti, an avid collector at this time.



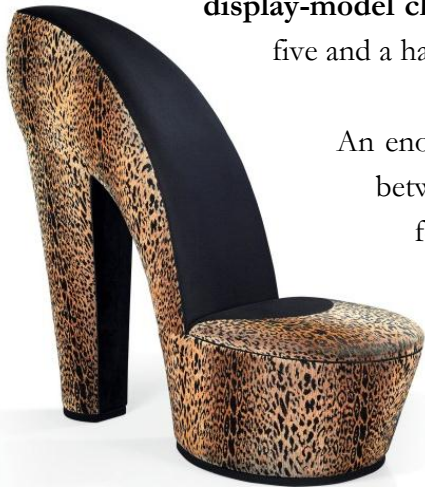


estimated to fetch £7,000 to £9,000 (*illustrated left*).

Another key painterly highlight is a set of **eight of Francis Bacon's paint brushes**, estimated between £20,000 and £25,000 (*illustrated right*). Bacon originally gave the coveted brushes to Clive Barker, a fellow artist, in 1978. Barker and Bacon worked together during the 1960s and 70s resulting in Barker's 1969 gilt-bronze life mask of Bacon, now on display in the National Portrait Gallery. The paintbrushes are likely to have formed part of Bacon's Reece Mews studio in South Kensington, just minutes away from Christie's salerooms.



An eclectic selection of furniture and decorative arts in the sale will appeal to private collectors as well as interior designers looking for eye-catching items. Highlights include a **German large-scale display-model chair**, commissioned by a flagship department store in 1979 and measuring over five and a half feet high (estimate: £8,000 – 12,000, *illustrated left*).



An enormous caviar dish, reputed to be the largest in the world, is estimated to make between £80,000 and 100,000 (*illustrated below right*). Likely to appeal to gourmet foodies this privately commissioned dish is beautifully crafted in silver and would make an opulent centrepiece. Once reserved for the Russian, Iranian and Austrian royalty, and even earlier by the ancient Roman and Persian aristocracy, the consumption of caviar has long been a statement of prestige and exclusivity. Though in recent years it has become a more accessible delicacy, the high price it still holds in the West has meant that caviar retains its associations of luxury and wealth, and with this the nickname 'Black Gold'.



Out of the Ordinary encompasses the unusual, the unconventional and the unexpected.

A full catalogue can be viewed online by following the link:

<http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/Index.aspx?id=EF5F2EE01A8A4572AC86450128936760>

PRESS CONTACT: Coralie Whittall | +44(0)207 752 3121 | cwhittall@christies.com

Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

Public Exhibition:

Monday 5 August – Thursday 5 September 2013
Monday – Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm
Saturday – Sunday, 11.00am to 5.00pm
Late viewing until 7.30pm on Monday 12 August
and Monday 2 September

Auction:

Out of the Ordinary
Thursday 5 September 2013
2.00pm

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from under £1,000. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others. In 2012 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the third consecutive year with sales of £139.4 million / \$223.1 million having welcomed a 10% growth in registered bidders and a 20% increase (£ / \$) in total sales.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives in Moscow, Baku, Beijing, Mumbai, Delhi, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

###

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:



CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Monday: 9.00am – 7.30pm

Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11.00am - 5.00pm

WWW.CHRISTIES.COM