

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON  
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## CHRISTIE'S **OUT OF THE ORDINARY** SALE FEATURES GIANT CELEBRITY ROBOT FROM 1950s

### SUMMER EXHIBITION AND SEPTEMBER SALE CELEBRATE THE JOY OF THE UNCONVENTIONAL

EARLY SALE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE CAVE BEAR SKELETON, ROLLS ROYCE TURBINE  
& TITANIC BELL

South Kensington, London - Christie's *Out of the Ordinary* sale on 5 September 2013 will feature an eclectic selection of fascinating items, spanning all eras from the prehistoric natural world to the surreal realm of science fiction. Building on the success of *The London sale* and summer exhibition held in 2012, this unique auction will be preceded by an extended public exhibition displaying the intriguing items for five weeks from 5 August until the auction on 5 September. The exhibition will offer inspiration to those with a range of interests and will appeal to new and established collectors. *Out of the Ordinary* will comprise over 150 lots ranging from £1,000 to around £100,000 and will entice collectors with all budgets.

One of the most extraordinary items in the sale is *Cygan*, a giant robot made in 1957. Created in the year that Sputnik, the world's first satellite was launched into space and the same year Britain tested the H-bomb, *Cygan* epitomises this new era of technological innovation. The eight-foot giant is a monumental relic of the atomic age and was a great celebrity of the 1950s and 60s. This remarkable item will be offered with an estimate of £6,000 – 8,000.

The impressive cyborg is one of the most sophisticated robots of its time, pre-dating PCs by over a decade and the internet by over 33 years. Designed by Dr Ing Fiorito, an enthusiastic aeromodeller from Turin, *Cygan* could originally walk forwards or backwards, turn right or left, raise its arms and could lift or carry items. It was an extremely advanced model for the time, with a capacity to accept spoken commands and signals and respond to light rays. Not



only could it raise its arms from a resting position in just three seconds, but it could shift its enormous weight of 1,000 lbs at a staggering rate of 10 feet per minute.

*Cygan* was first presented at the Milan sample fair in 1957 and then travelled to London, Olympia in 1958 to perform in front of astonished crowds. The colossal robot captivated children and adults alike, walking around the auditorium and even showing off its dance moves with a well-dressed lady. It would have been an extraordinary experience to witness the workings of such an advanced robot and Dr. Ing Fiorito was most likely considered an innovator of the time. Before completing *Cygan*, he worked on a series of models, which he fitted with radio control circuits. The first prototype and following two or three models were built around five feet high, in preparation for the impressive final design, over eight feet high.

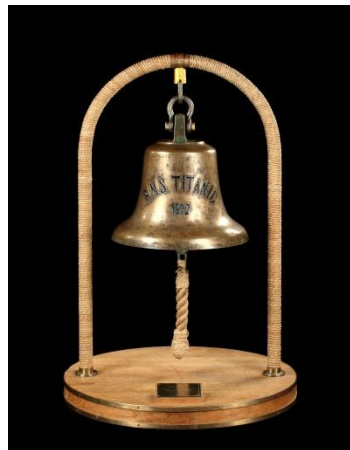
View *Cygan* in action: <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/gentle-giant-aka-robot/query/gygan+robot>

Further highlights in the sale include a huge **Titanic bell**, used in the 1958 film, ‘A Night to Remember’, a full size **taxidermy ostrich**, a **fossilised skeleton of a cave bear**, some **buffalo-headed wooden chairs** and a **Rolls Royce titanium turbine fan**. *Out of the Ordinary* encompasses the unusual, the unconventional and the unexpected.

## FURTHER EXTRAORDINARY HIGHLIGHTS



A fossilised cave bear skeleton  
From the upper paleolithic (circa 30,000 BCE)  
Estimate: £20,000-£30,000



Titanic bell from the 1958 film ‘A Night to Remember’  
Estimate: £15,000 – 25,000



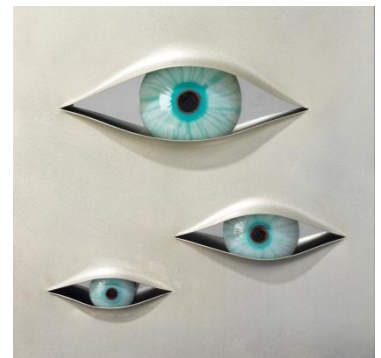
“Devil’s Harvest”, 1942, original film poster  
Estimate: £6,000 – 8,000



A pair of carved mahogany hall chairs, late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Estimate: £2,000 – 3,000



A Stage 1 Rolls Royce titanium turbine fan, circa 1970  
Estimate: £60,000 – 80,000



‘Malizia’, an Angelo Brotto (Italian 1914 – 2002) illuminated wall panel, circa 1973  
Estimate: £2,000 – 3,000

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**Extended Public Exhibition:**

Monday 5 August 2013 – Thursday 5 September 2013

**Auction:**

*Out of the Ordinary*  
5 September 2013

**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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion. 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 £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last year.

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.

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