

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON  
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## THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN PHOTOGRAPHS OF YETI FOOTPRINTS TO BE OFFERED IN OUT OF THE ORDINARY: THE ONLINE EDIT FROM 27 AUGUST – 10 SEPTEMBER 2014



**Online** – Christie's is pleased to announce full details of *Out of the Ordinary: The Online Edit* which will run from 27 August to 10 September 2014 offering collectors of all things extraordinary the chance to acquire unusual objects from around the world at any time. A leading highlight of this online sale is a group of photographs showing Yeti footprints in the Memluk Basin (estimate: £3,000 – 5,000, *illustrated above*). The photographs were taken by Eric Earle Shipton (1907-1977) during the 1951 Everest expedition. Shipton's photographs ignited speculation about the existence of a Yeti which had been growing since N.A. Tombazi made the first European sighting during an expedition to the Sikkim Himalaya in 1925.

*Out of the Ordinary: The Online Edit* features items such as vintage posters, an elephant bird egg and a fossilised giant palm frond and will run alongside the pre-sale exhibition for Out of the Ordinary 2014. To view the full sale please visit the dedicated microsite: [www.christies.com/outoftheordinary](http://www.christies.com/outoftheordinary)

## YETI!

Shipton's photographs of these mysterious footprints were taken in the Memluk Basin. With no means of measuring them, after examining them, Shipton took four photographs: two of the indistinct prints with human footprints, and rucsac beside them for comparison; the other two photographs were of one of the most detailed and distinct group of prints, with an ice axe for scale, and a second one with a booted foot. The footprints measure between 12 and 13 inches long. Edmund Hillary had a further encounter in 1952 on a pass between the Ngojumba and Khumbu glaciers: 'We were climbing quite a steep pitch when Pemba stopped and picked something off the rock. Obviously greatly excited, he showed it to Angpempa. Feeling somewhat curious, I asked them what it was all about. They placed in my hand a tuft of long black hairs -- thick and coarse, they looked more like bristles than anything else. "Yeti, Sahib! Yeti!" I couldn't help being impressed by their conviction, and it did seem a strange place to find some hair. We were well over 19,000 feet and the Abominable Snowman was obviously no mean rock climber' (Hillary, High Adventure, 1955, p. 103).

Following these various incidents, Hillary mounted an expedition in 1960 to collect and evaluate evidence of the Yeti, with inconclusive results. British mountaineer Don Whillans was a fervent believer, claiming he encountered the Yeti while scaling Annapurna in 1970. He observed a few human-like footprints in the snow around his camp one morning and, that evening, claimed that through binoculars he watched a bipedal, ape-like creature for about 20 minutes as it apparently searched for food not far from his camp.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



### Lot 1006

An Elephant Bird Egg  
Madagascar, pre-17<sup>th</sup> century  
Starting Bid: £10,000



### Lot 1023

I Married a Monster from Outer Space  
Reynold Brown (1917-1991)  
Starting Bid: £700



### Lot 1013

A David Linley for Dunhill  
Architectural Walnut Jewellery Box  
*circa* 1994  
Starting Bid: £7,000

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

**Public Exhibition:**

Monday 4 August to Wednesday 10 September  
Christie's South Kensington,  
85 Old Brompton Road  
London

**Online sale open for bids:**

Wednesday 27 August to Wednesday 10 September

**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 the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai 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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