

# CHRISTIE'S

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## IMPERIAL 'DRAGON' THRONE CARPET TO BE SOLD BY CHRISTIE'S IN PARIS



*An Imperial throne carpet with double dragon and seed pearl motif, Ming Dynasty, 16<sup>th</sup> Century, 16ft.7in. x 14ft.7in. (507cm. x 451 cm). Estimate: €3,500,000-4,500,000*

**Paris** – A rare survivor from the original carpets woven to adorn the halls of the Imperial Palace within the Forbidden City, will be offered at auction by Christie's in Paris for €3,500,000-4,500,000. The carpet, woven in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century during the Ming dynasty, will be on exhibition in London at Christie's King Street from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November. Adorned with two five-clawed dragons and with a seed pearl at its centre, it would have been placed on a raised platform upon which the throne of the Emperor, the 'Son of Heaven' would have been positioned, signifying his connection between the earth and the celestial heavens, it is in pristine condition. The carpet, which would have originally been woven in rich Ming Imperial red, now faded to a golden yellow, measures 5 x 4 meters approximately and is one of the highlights of the Exceptional Sale on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There are only 39 complete carpets in existence today out of the hundreds that were originally woven, 16 carry the highly-prized Imperial dragon, nine of which are in the Beijing Palace Museum with just seven remaining in private hands.

Louise Broadhurst, Christie's Rug and Carpet specialist, said: "*Standing before such a carpet one cannot help but be transported back to the impressive palace interiors of the Ming Emperors. For this carpet to have survived in such remarkable condition is in itself a rare feat and we are honored to have the opportunity to offer this eminent work of art for sale.*"

The carpet was said to have been bought in 1920 by a couple from Iowa on their honeymoon in China. They brought it back to America, loaned it to the Cleveland Museum of Art and then sold it from their collection in 1987 to a private collector in Switzerland, the current vendor.

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**About Christie's**

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvador Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

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*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.  
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*Images available on request*

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