

For Immediate Release

CHRISTIE'S

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CARPET FLIES AT CHRISTIE'S TODAY



Rugs and Carpets

Christie's London

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London – The enduring appeal of the finest quality Persian carpets continues to command audiences today and in a moment that also demonstrated the ongoing strength of the art market, a stunning and rare mid-17th century Kirman ‘vase’ carpet sold for a **world record price of £6,201,250 (\$9,599,535/€7,038,419)** to an anonymous telephone bidder at Christie's today. This price established the carpet as the most expensive Islamic work of art ever sold as well as a record in the category of rugs and carpets.

“This carpet has huge charm, subtlety and balance, which combine in a design of deceptive simplicity”, commented William Robinson, Senior Director, Rugs and Carpets. “This particular rug reflects how during the Safavid Period the weavers of Kirman were arguably the most inventive and influential of all carpet designers.”

Further highlights of the sale included a Star Ushak carpet from West Anatolia, last quarter 15th or first quarter 16th century, which sold for £265,250 (\$410,607/€401,059) (estimate: £50,000-80,000) and a stunning example which displays a wonderful finesse of weave and a potentially unique method of plaiting silver wire into the structure, bearing the very rare signature of Rajab (estimate: £40,000-60,000), that sold for £133,250 (\$206,271/€151,239).

Christie's sale today totaled £8,235,250 (\$12,746,619/€9,345,874), the highest total for a sale of Oriental Rugs and Carpets ever staged. Islamic Art week continues at Christie's South Kensington tomorrow.

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Images available on request
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