

# CHRISTIE'S

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## *Christie's London Handbags & Accessories Auction*

*Totals £2,936,500 / \$ 3,670,625 / €3,236,023*

*European Record Achieved For A Handbag Sold At Auction*



A Rare & Exceptional, Matte Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Diamond Birkin 35 With 18K White Gold & Diamond Hardware, Hermès, 2010, Estimate: £100,000 –150,000, Price Realised: £236,750 / \$295,938 / €260,899

**London** – On 12 December 2018 Christie's Winter Season Luxury sales in London concluded with the *Handbags & Accessories* auction, which totalled £2,936,500 / \$ 3,670,625 / €3,236,023, and achieved sell-through rates of 93% by lot and 89% by value. The leading lot of the sale was a 2010 Hermès, Matte Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Birkin 35 with 18k White Gold & Diamond Hardware (estimate: £100,000–150,000), which sold for £236,750 / \$295,938 / €260,899 and established a European record for a handbag sold at auction\*. An additional sale highlight was an extremely rare aluminium Explorer Trunk by Louis Vuitton, which realised £162,500 / \$203,125 / €179,075. Dating to 1892, this

extraordinary trunk was created at a time when the production of aluminium was so complex it was more expensive than gold, and as a result only a very small quantity of aluminium trunks were crafted. These trunks were coveted by explorers and high-society alike due to their durability, weight and rarity.



A Rare Aluminium Explorer Trunk, Louis Vuitton, 1892, Estimate: £50,000-100,000, Price Realised: £236,750 / \$295,938 / €260,899

**Rachel Koffsky, Christie's Head of Sale, Handbags & Accessories London:** *"We are delighted with the results of today's auction, including two record breaking lots; an Exceptional Diamond Himalaya Birkin in the 35 size and an Aluminium Louis Vuitton Explorer trunk. The overall sell-through rate, 93% by lot, demonstrates the appetite of collectors for these sought-after iterations. We are happy to conclude a year of successful sales in the Handbags & Accessories department at Christie's with these phenomenal results."*

Further exceptional prices were achieved throughout the auction, including the 2017 Hermès Quelle Idole (estimate: £35,000-40,000), which sold for £68,750 / \$85,938 / €75,763. Also known as the Kelly Doll, this Custom Quelle Idole in an exotic is an extremely rare iteration, crafted of matte alligator and accented with swift leather. Released in 2000 in celebration of the millennium, and designed in collaboration with then-Chairman Jean-Louis Dumas, the Quelle Idole immediately took the handbag world by storm. Discontinued for a generation, the Quelle Idole has become one of the most sought-after limited edition pieces.

Please find the full results of the Handbags & Accessories [here](#).



A Rare, Custom Matte Gris Perle Alligator & Taupe Swift Leather Quelle Idole With Palladium Hardware Hermès, 2017, Estimate: £35,000-40,000, Price Realised: £68,750 / \$85,938 / €75,763

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### Notes to Editors

\* The previous European record for a handbag sold at auction was held by a 2008 Hermès, Matte White Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Birkin 30 with 18k White Gold & Diamond Hardware, which sold for £162,500 / \$217,100 / €183,950 in the June 2018 Handbags & Accessories auction at Christie's London.

### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*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*