

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | NEW YORK | 29 JANUARY 2019

## DEEP IMPACT: ONLINE AUCTION OF METEORITES FEATURING 'THE HEART OF SPACE'



SIKHOTE ALIN METEORITE  
**'THE HEART OF SPACE'**  
Iron, coarse octahedrite – IIAB  
Maritime Territory, Siberia, Russia  
Estimate: \$300,000 - 500,000

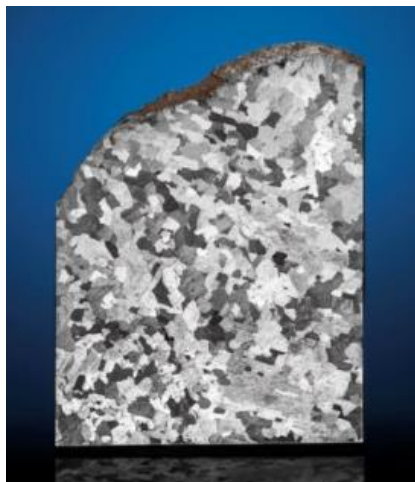
**New York** – Christie's announces its fifth annual [online auction of meteorites](#) which will be open for bidding from 6-14 February with estimates ranging from \$500 to \$500,000

Just in time for Valentine's Day is an iconic iron meteorite in the shape of a heart. '[The Heart of Space](#)', is one of the finest meteorites in private hands. It originates from the biggest meteorite shower of the last several thousand years — which occurred in Siberia on February 12, 1947. The shockwaves from the explosion collapsed chimneys, shattered windows and uprooted trees; sonic booms were heard nearly 200 miles away and eyewitnesses thought the world was ending. Among the meteorites to land on Earth that day was a natural sculptural form from outer space in the shape of a heart. It's the result of unlikely yet fortuitous cleavage along its crystalline planes as it burned through Earth's atmosphere — a fiery plunge that thumb-printed surface that evokes the texture of a Giacometti, it is estimated to sell for \$300,000 – \$500,000.

Meteorites are exceedingly rare (The combined mass of all known in museum and private collections weighs less than the world's annual output of gold). The more esoteric meteorites subtypes are among the rarest objects on Earth. Eight of the lots in the sale contain extraterrestrial gemstones in the form of olivine and peridot. Referred to as pallasites, they are among the rarest of meteorites representing just 0.2% of all meteorites. These exotic meteorites originate from the mantle/core boundary of an asteroid that had blown apart and whose remnants are part of the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter — and they are the most beautiful extraterrestrial substance known. Estimates range from \$3,000 to 30,000. Of even greater rarity are lunar meteorites. Most of the craters on the Moon are the result of asteroid impacts, and some of these impacts are sufficiently powerful to eject Moon

rocks off the lunar surface into space—some of which land on Earth. Vetted by the top scientists in the field, the estimates of the four lunar specimens in this sale range from \$12,000 - \$35,000.

Also included in this 45 lot sale, and weighing nearly 190 pounds, is a [massive iron meteorite](#) (estimate \$40,000 – 60,000); a complete slice of a meteorite which contains the [oldest matter mankind can touch](#) (estimate: \$2,000 – 3,000); a partial slice from the [most famous meteorite in the world](#) whose main mass is a museum centerpiece in New York City (estimate: \$6,000 – 9,000).



THE MOST FAMOUS METEORITE IN THE  
WORLD — A PARTIAL SLICE OF THE  
WILLAMETTE METEORITE  
Iron – UNGR  
Clackamas County, Oregon (45°22' N, 122°35'  
W)  
Estimate: \$6,000 - 9,000



MASSIVE SCULPTURE FROM OUTER  
SPACE — AESTHETIC CAMPO DEL CIELO  
IRON METEORITE  
Iron, coarse octahedrite – IAB-MG  
Gran Chaco, Argentina (27°28' S, 60°35' W)  
Estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000



EXTRATERRESTRIAL GEMSTONES IN  
METALLIC MATRIX — A COMPLETE SLICE  
OF A SEYMCHAN METEORITE  
Pallasite – PMG  
Magadan District, Siberia, Russia  
Estimate: \$3,000 - 5,000

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#### 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*