

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | 12 JUNE 2019 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WRITE ME AND TELL ME YOUR HEART: LETTERS BY LEONARD COHEN TO MARIANNE 100% SOLD TOTAL: \$876,000

5-13 JUNE 2019 | NEW YORK



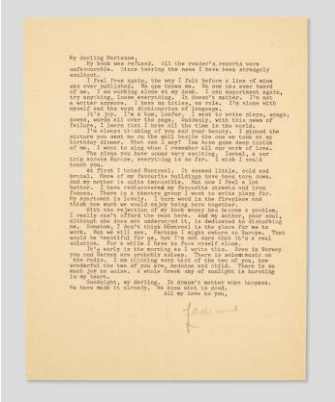
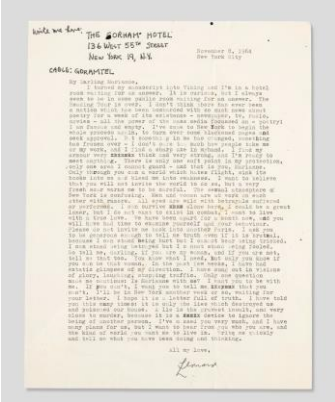
There is a crack, a crack in everything
An Italian bronze bell, c. 15th-16th century.
Estimate: \$8,000 – \$12,000
Price Realised: \$81,250

New York – On June 5-13, Christie's brought to auction an archive of over 50 letters from the acclaimed Canadian poet, singer-songwriter, and novelist [Leonard Cohen](#) (1934-2016) to his most famous muse, the inspiration for the song "So Long, Marianne," Marianne Ihlen. The first ever online auction for the New York Books & Manuscripts department totaled **\$876,000**, selling 100 % by lot and 100% by value. The top lot of the online auction was **There is a crack, a crack in everything** An Italian bronze bell, c. 15th-16th century which sold for **\$81,250**. The top letter from the auction was **Alone with the vast dictionaries of language Montreal, December 1960**, realizing **\$56,250**, compared to an original high estimate of \$7,000.

Other notable results included **I am famous and empty** typed letter signed ("Leonard") to Marianne Ihlen ("My Darling Marianne") with autograph annotations, New York, 8 November 1964, which realized **\$35,000**; **Cohen's first major performance** Autograph letter signed ("Leonard") to Marianne Ihlen ("Darling"), New York, 23 February 1967 which totaled **\$35,000**; and **Songs From a Room** Autograph poem to Marianne Ihlen [Nashville, October 1968]. – IHLEN, Marianne (1935-2016). Autograph letter signed ("M.") to Leonard Cohen, no place, no date, which sold for **\$32,500**.

Heather Weintraub, Associate Specialist, Books & Manuscripts, New York commented: "These letters are exactly the sort of thing we love to handle: they are unpublished and fresh-to-market, with compelling content and impeccable provenance. The collection was estimated conservatively and we are absolutely delighted with the outcome. We are thrilled that this material has spoken to so many of Cohen's admirers around the world."

Notable Results

		
Alone with the vast dictionaries of language Typed letter signed ("Leonard") to Marianne Ihlen ("My darling Marianne") Montreal, December 1960. Estimate: \$7,000 - \$10,000 Price Realized: \$56,250	I am famous and empty Typed letter signed ("Leonard") to Marianne Ihlen ("My Darling Marianne") with autograph annotations, New York, 8 November 1964. Estimate: \$7,000-10,000 Price Realized: \$35,000	Cohen's first major performance Autograph letter signed ("Leonard") to Marianne Ihlen ("Darling"), New York, 23 February 1967. Estimate: \$8,000-12,000 Price Realized: \$35,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 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

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