

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 16 September 2020

THE KING OF THE DINOSAURS

**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER ONE OF THE LARGEST,
MOST COMPLETE, AND WIDELY STUDIED
TYRANNOSAURUS REX SKELETONS ON EARTH**

OCTOBER 6 EVENING SALE
CHRISTIE'S ROCKEFELLER CENTER IN NEW YORK
PUBLIC EXHIBITION: SEPT 16 - OCT 21, 2020



To see video of the skeleton's installation, visit <http://www.christies.com/trex>

NEW YORK – On October 6, Christie's will offer one of the largest, most complete and widely studied *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons ever discovered. Endearingly named "STAN" after the paleontologist who first found the skeleton's partially unearthed hip bones, the *T. rex* is an extraordinary surviving specimen from approximately 67 million years ago.

The skeleton comes to auction from the Black Hills Institute in South Dakota, where the T.rex has been displayed and studied for the last two decades, and has inspired dozens of academic articles and studies within the paleontological community. After a meticulous museum-quality re-mounting, STAN the *T. rex* will be unveiled for the public on September 16, 2020 at Christie's Rockefeller Center in New York and offered as a highlight of Christie's Evening Sale of 20th Century Art on October 6 with an estimate of \$6-8 million. More information on the Evening Sale may be viewed [here](#).

James Hyslop, Head of Department, Scientific Instruments, Globes & Natural History, Christie's:
"We are honoured to be bringing STAN to auction and to have been entrusted with the stewardship of such and iconic and important T. rex. I'll never forget the moment I came face to face with him for the first time, after his remount in Colorado – he looked even larger and more ferocious than I'd imagined, a specimen that only further establishes the T. rex's position as the King of Dinosaurs."

STAN will be exhibited in a first-of-its-kind extended public preview at Christie's in midtown Manhattan. From September 16 through October 21, STAN will be fully visible 24 hours a day through Christie's floor-to-ceiling gallery windows from the sidewalk on 49th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues. This special viewing opportunity will offer enthusiasts and pedestrians alike the chance to see and learn about one of the world's most iconic dinosaurs in a socially distanced setting. A limited number of in-gallery viewings will be available by appointment through Christie's booking system, which may be requested by emailing trex@christies.com. Related educational content will be made available via QR codes, which may be easily found from outside and inside the galleries. Both modes of viewing will be subject to all local public health guidelines and with all necessary measures to protect our visitors and our staff in place.

ABOUT STAN



The enormous scale of STAN's skeleton – 13 feet high and 40 feet long with the tail outstretched – demonstrates the behemoth size of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*. With 188 original bones, STAN is one of the largest and most complete specimens known to exist. Consistent with the skeleton, STAN's skull is one of the most complete *T. rex* examples known to science, and could hold as many as 58 functioning teeth. With eyes the size of baseballs, STAN would have boasted keen vision for hunting his chosen prey.

The first bones from the skeleton were discovered in the spring of 1987 by amateur paleontologist Stan Sacrison on privately owned land in the Hell Creek Formation, part of a sprawling geological area known as the Cretaceous Badlands, spanning large areas of North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. In the course of his search, Sacrison discovered dinosaur hip bones weathering out of the ground. The fossils were originally misidentified by a vertebrate paleontologist as belonging to the more commonly found Triceratops. As a result, the remains lay undisturbed for another five years until 1992, when paleontologists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research returned to see the "Triceratops." The emerging bones were immediately recognized as *T. rex* in origin, and three months later, a thorough professional excavation ensued with the landowner's consent.

In order to be excavated safely, each individual bone from the skeleton had to be carefully removed from the host rock, cleaned, preserved, restored and recorded. Following more than 30,000 hours of manual labor, the near-complete male fossil skeleton in a remarkable state of preservation was pieced together.



The state of the fossilized bones indicates STAN suffered a broken neck during his lifetime and survived. In the process of healing, two of his vertebrae bonded together, while a third vertebrae became immobilized by additional bone growth. Pathologies show evidence of injury or disease that the animal withstood during its life. One of STAN's ribs exhibit a puncture wound that may have been inflicted by another *T. rex*.

For more than two decades, STAN has held a unique celebrity status; upon returning from a tour of Japan in 1995-1996, the skeleton was re-installed at the museum for the Black Hills Institute for public viewing. Casts of STAN's skeleton have been produced for dozens of science and natural history museums across the Americas, Europe and Asia.

More than fifty *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons have been discovered since 1902, with the majority housed in natural history museums and paleontological institutions throughout the world. The appearance of a *T. rex* skeleton at auction is a significant event, made all the more special with a specimen as well-preserved and well-documented as STAN. The October 6 sale marks a rare opportunity for a collector, institution, or museum benefactor to acquire the extraordinary fossil skeleton of the celebrated King of the Dinosaurs.

Facts at a glance:

- At his largest, STAN would have boasted a body mass between 7 and 8 tons – twice as heavy as a modern African elephant.
- STAN's immediately recognizable and enormous skull is surmounted by an aquiline snout that housed an intricate system of blood vessels, functioning as a giant biological air conditioner in the hot Cretaceous landscape.
- The longest of STAN's teeth measures more than 11 inches.
- Each tooth has serrated edges which could crush and slice straight through the flesh and bone of its prey.
- In 2005, STAN's skull was modelled and tested to recreate a bite force of four tons per square inch – easily enough to crush a car.
- STAN would have hatched from a large, elongated egg much like a modern bird, defenseless and – according to recent scientific research – most likely covered in feathers.
- STAN's killer instinct was confirmed during the excavation of his skeleton in 1992, when he was found with the fossilized and partially digested remains of an Edmontosaurus vertebra and a partial Triceratops tibia. These bones each had bite marks, revealing how a *T. rex* could hunt, kill, and devour even the largest and well-armored herbivores.
- With vicious puncture wounds to his skull that a *T. rex* tooth would neatly fit into, STAN himself was a wounded warrior who most likely suffered and survived attacks by his own species.
- A group of Tyrannosaurs is aptly known as a 'terror'.
- The legendary *T. rex* is a 20th century cultural phenomenon. The 'debut' of a *T. rex* on-screen came just 15 years after the first of the species was first described by science, with the American production *Ghost of Slumber Mountain* (1918). Further representations of the *T. rex* can be found horrifying human explorers in *The Lost World* (1925), battling the eponymous great ape in *King Kong* (1933), and terrorizing park-goers in the blockbuster *Jurassic Park* (1993) and *Jurassic World* (2015) franchises.



HASHTAGS AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: #RexAtRock @christiesinc

URL: www.christies.com/trex

PRESS CONTACTS:

Rebecca Riegelhaupt | 212-636-2680 | RRiegelhaupt@christies.com

Erin McAndrew | 212-636-2680 | EMcAndrew@christies.com

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in 2019 that totalled £4.5 billion / \$5.8 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.*

###

Images and video available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON: