

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S VOYAGE TO ANOTHER WORLD: THE VICTOR MARTIN-MALBURET PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



From left to right:

Lot 558, Crescent Earth rising beyond the Moon's barren horizon, July 26- August 7, 1971. ALFRED WORDEN [APOLLO 15]. Estimate: £2,000-3,000  
Lot 75, First US Spacewalk, Ed White's EVA over Texas, June 3-7, 1965. JAMES MCDIVITT [GEMINI IV]. Estimate: £1,200-1,800  
Lot 210, First human-taken photograph of the Planet Earth, December 21-27, 1968. WILLIAM ANDERS [APOLLO 8]. Estimate: £3,000-5,000

**ONLINE:** From 6 to 20 November 2020, Christie's [Voyage To Another World: The Victor Martin-Malburet Photograph Collection](#) will present 700 lots, comprising approximately 2,400 vintage original photographs showcasing the artistic heritage of the golden age of space exploration when NASA, and its astronaut-photographers, captured the first forays into space and onto the surface of another world. The collection is the most comprehensive private collection of NASA photographs ever presented at auction, and spans every visual milestone of the space program, from the early days of Mercury, the technical advances of Gemini and Lunar Orbiter, to the triumphs of Apollo. Alongside the iconic images, *Voyage to Another World* boasts photographs which were not released by NASA at the time of the missions. With estimates ranging from £800 to £30,000, the sale offers collectors across the globe a unique opportunity to acquire a universal moment in the history of mankind.

In a time when photography was still analogue, requiring light-sensitive chemistry, film and photographic papers, the astronauts were instructed by NASA, Hasselblad, Kodak, Zeiss specialists and by Life and National Geographic photographers such as Ralph Morse and Dean Conger. Through their cameras, the astronauts-turned-artists were able to convey to mankind the beauty and profundity of their experience into space, forever changing the way we see ourselves and our place in the universe.



Lot 357,  
360° panoramic sequence in the Sea of  
Tranquility, July 16-24, 1969,  
NEIL ARMSTRONG [APOLLO 11].  
Image 1 of 10 in the panoramic sequence  
Estimate: £10,000-12,000



Lot 345,  
The only photograph of Neil Armstrong on the Moon,  
July 16-24, 1969.  
BUZZ ALDRIN [APOLLO 11].  
Estimate: £30,000-50,000

Back on Earth, many images released by NASA instantly became pop culture touchstones, leading to the birth of a global environmental consciousness. However the public was not fully aware of the wealth of the astronauts' camera work as the unreleased photographs were accessible only to accredited researchers in the archives of the Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston. These rare pictures lay uncelebrated for decades, such as the first photograph of Earthrise, the only photograph of Neil Armstrong on the Moon and incredible panoramas taken by each of the 12 astronauts who walked on the Moon.

The collection has been meticulously assembled over the course of 15 years by Victor Martin-Malburet and includes a corresponding catalogue which, thanks to the mission transcripts made available by NASA, retraces mankind's first journey to another world step by step. Together the photographs and catalogue, capture the sights and conversations of these defining moments, allowing collectors to share the excitement and magic of space travel.

Extraordinary photographs were taken for the first time, with highlights of auction including the first images of the Earth from space, alongside those of the lunar surface, the dark side of the Moon, spacewalks, moonwalks and the first space selfie. Further leading lots feature rare large format photographs specially produced by NASA for presentation and fascinating panoramic mosaics taken both in lunar orbit and on the lunar surface, which can be compared to the finest abstract art.

Victor Martin-Malburet commented: *"The astronauts are often portrayed as great scientists and heroes, but rarely are they hailed as some of the most significant photographers of all time. The early pioneers of Mercury and Gemini were given as a canvas space and the Earth; the Apollo astronauts an alien world. From the thin protections of their space capsules and EMUs (Extravehicular Mobility Units), they captured, with skill and daring, photographs which immediately embraced the iconography of the sublime, inspiring awe and wonder."*



Lot 217,  
The first human-taken photograph of Earthrise,  
December 21-27, 1968.  
WILLIAM ANDERS [APOLLO 8].  
Estimate: £20,000-30,000



Lot 373,  
LM Eagle and Earthrise, July 16-24, 1969, MICHAEL  
COLLINS [APOLLO 11].  
Estimate: £1,500-2,500

*Voyage to Another World Part I* (open for bidding from November 6 to 19) features Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, from the birth of the Space Age to Eagle's landing on Apollo 11, including Apollo 8, the first mission when humans left Planet Earth and explored deep space and lunar orbit. *Voyage to Another World Part II* (open for bidding from November 6 to 20) features missions Apollo 11 to Apollo 17, from Neil Armstrong's first step to Eugene Cernan's last step on the Moon, including the great voyages of exploration with the Lunar Rover which allowed the astronauts to travel dozen of kilometres on the lunar surface.



Lot 655,  
Panoramic view of Harrison Schmitt, Tracy's Rock and the Lunar  
Rover, station 6, December 7-19, 1972,  
EVA 3. EUGENE CERNAN [APOLLO 17].  
Estimate: £4,000-6,000

The collection received museum acclaim in major art exhibitions which commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing in 2019 including the Grand Palais in Paris, the Kunsthaus in Zürich, the Museum Der Moderne in Salzburg, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen and the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter in Oslo.

The full sale can be viewed [here](#).

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#### **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.*