

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | NEW YORK | 12 AUGUST 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEEP IMPACT: LUNAR AND RARE METEORITES

OPEN FOR ONLINE BIDDING AUGUST 12 – 25



THE LARGEST LUNAR SPHERE ON EARTH

Estimate: \$300,000-500,000

New York – Christie's announces its annual Deep Impact: Lunar and Rare Meteorites sale in which dozens of striking extraterrestrial specimens will be offered for bidding from 12-25 August, 2020. With estimates ranging from \$500 to \$500,000, there is something for every collector.

Leading the sale is a sample of the Moon in the shape of Moon (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). Among the rarest objects on Earth, specimens of the Moon are identified by specific geological, mineralogical, chemical and radiation signatures. This sphere was fashioned from a lunar meteorite — a piece of the Moon ejected into space following an impact on the lunar surface. While not one milligram of the 400kg of Apollo material is available for private ownership, some of the material returned to Earth by Apollo astronauts is remarkably similar to select lunar meteorites, including this offering. **With a 98mm diameter (4 inches), this captivating presentation of the Moon is, besides the Moon itself, the largest lunar sphere known.** The sale also offers a smaller lunar sphere (estimate: \$15,000-20,000) and a piece of lunar jewelry with extraterrestrial gemstones (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).

Originating from the molten core of an asteroid between Mars & Jupiter, the Lake Murray meteorite has been on Earth longer than any other meteorite and its crystalline pattern is among the most captivating. Offered here is a complete slab (estimate: \$25,000-35,000) of this historic meteorite. Protected by a 6-inch sheath of iron shale, the Lake Murray mass was found in a layer of Antler Sandstone of the Lower Cretaceous period (110 million years). **Lake Murray landed on Earth more than a hundred million years before the earliest humans walked the Earth.**

Containing gems from outer space, from the Collection of legendary meteorite hunter Robert Haag is a large partial slice of **the most beautiful extraterrestrial substance known**. Representing just 0.2% of all meteorites, pallasites are extremely exotic and samples of the Esquel meteorite are the most coveted (estimate: \$15,000-25,000). This specimen contains highly translucent olivine crystals ranging in hue from amber to emerald and also features gem quality peridot, the semi-precious birthstone of August. The slice is eight inches across.

Also featured in the sale, with Macovich Collection provenance, is a massive oriented parabolic heat shield meteorite (estimate: \$40,000-60,000). The heat shields for the first manned space capsules were inspired and emulated from oriented meteorites similar to this offering as this is the most efficient angle at which heat is deflected from an object undergoing frictional atmospheric heating. This is among the most aesthetic large examples of such a meteorite known.

Additional Macovich Collection specimens include a highly aesthetic Gibeon iron meteorite (estimate: \$50,000-80,000) that qualifies as an **extraterrestrial tabletop sculpture** and one of the most unusually-shaped stone meteorites known to exist (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) which evokes the sculpture of Ken Price. Additional highlights from the sale include: three lots containing the oldest matter mankind can touch, one with over 70 amino acids from outer space (estimate: between \$12,000-18,000); **two select specimens from the largest meteorite shower since the dawn of civilization** (estimate: \$15,000-30,000); five specimens with extraterrestrial gemstones – including one with nanodiamonds (estimate: between \$4,000-25,000); a slice of a meteorite from Meteor Crater, Arizona (estimate: \$2,500-3,500) and the main mass of the New York meteorite (\$25,000-40,000).

SELECTED SALE HIGHLIGHTS



**GIBEON METEORITE
EXTRATERRESTRIAL TABLETOP
SCULPTURE**

IRON, GROUP IVA, FINE OCTAHEDRITE
GIBEON, GREAT NAMA LAND, NAMIBIA
Estimate: \$50,000-80,000



**EXTRATERRESTRIAL GEMS IN A LARGE PARTIAL SLICE OF ESQUEL
PALLASITE — THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OTHERWORLDLY SUBSTANCE
KNOWN**

PALLASITE – PALCHUBUT, ARGENTINA
Estimate: \$15,000-25,000



**DRONINO METEORITE
EXOTICA FROM OUTER SPACE**
IRON, ATAXITE (UNGROUPE) RYAZAN
DISTRICT, RUSSIA
Estimate: \$3,000-5,000

- Press images can be downloaded [here](#).

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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.*

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Images available on request

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