

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 24 JUNE 2020

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS [*EUREKA!*](#)

AN ONLINE SALE HIGHLIGHTING THE SCIENTIFIC
BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE 20th CENTURY



Douglas Kirkland (b.1934, photographer). *Stephen Hawking*. 1 March 1983.

London – Open for bidding from today until 16 July, *Eureka!* is a journey through the scientific and technological breakthroughs that have formed the modern world, and the brilliant minds that lay behind them. From Thomas Edison's pioneering design for the lightbulb to Crick and Watson's celebrated discovery of the structure of DNA, from a Second World War Enigma Machine to the invention of in vitro fertilisation, from Albert Einstein to Stephen Hawking, this online auction provides collectors with an opportunity to acquire a slice of history that has shaped the world we live in.

Among the highlight lots offered is the Nobel Prize Medal awarded to British Scientist Sir Robert Edwards in 2010, for the development of human in vitro fertilisation (IVF) therapy (*illustrated right*, estimate: £500,000-800,000). Edwards' pioneering research, alongside his two collaborators Patrick Steptoe and Jean Purdy, eventually led to the birth of Louise Brown on 25 July 1978, marking the first conception and birth by IVF. In the years that followed, procedures were undertaken in Australia and the USA, then across the world.



The IVF Nobel Medal
[Sir Robert Geoffrey EDWARDS (1925-2013)] – Nobel Prize Medal, 2010
Estimate: £500,000-800,000

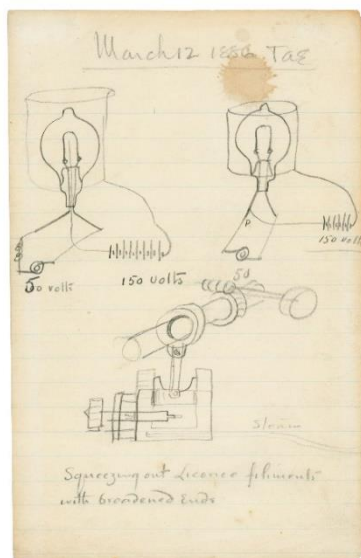


Stephen Hawking's personal Simpsons portrait
 Stephen Hawking. 2003
 Estimate: £500-800

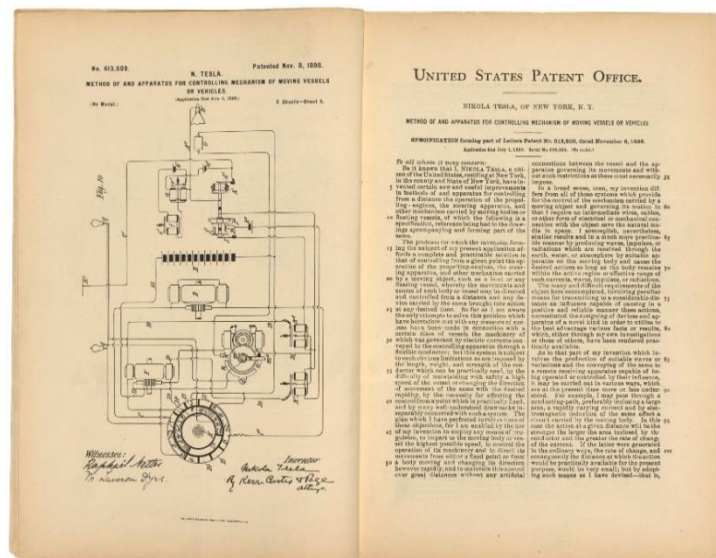
Following Christie's successful sale of personal items from the estate of Professor Stephen Hawking in 2018's inaugural online auction *On the Shoulders of Giants* which were 100% sold, bidders will also have the opportunity to purchase a number of unique items directly offered from the late physicist's estate. Highlights include a rare Hawking portrait by Anton Corbijn, the creative director best known for the visual output of Depeche Mode and U2 (estimate: £1,000-1,500), and a Simpsons figurine of him made by Playmates Toys (*illustrated left*, estimate: £500-800). These rare items provide a remarkable insight into the cultural interests, personality and sense of fun of this extraordinary man.

Continuing the theme of pioneers and life-changing discoveries, the sale also offers seven autographed and annotated design drawings by American inventor Thomas Edison for his lightbulb and related innovations (*illustrated below left*, estimate: £60,000-90,000). Each

sketch testifies to Edison's continued work on the electric lamp throughout the 1880s, as well as offering an example of the related inventions that filled his design notebooks. The online sale also features an extraordinary collection of 50 patents from famous inventor Nikola Tesla's most fruitful period, comprising almost half of all the patents granted to him. The collection includes Tesla's patent for the invention of the radio, one of the key technological discoveries of the last century; for the 'Tesla coil', which was the basis of his method of wireless power transmission; for remote-controlled devices, which anticipated robotics; and those for his systems of power transmission, AC motors, generators, incandescent arc-lighting, transformers, etc. (*illustrated below right*, estimate: £120,000-160,000). These patents are the originals issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).



Thomas Edison works on his lightbulb
 Thomas Edison. 1880-1886
 Estimate: £60,000-90,000



An extraordinary collection of Tesla's patents, including those for the invention of radio.
 Nikola Tesla. 1886-1914
 Estimate: £120,000-160,000

Eureka! will also feature one of the rarest and hardest to decrypt Enigma Machines, a four-rotor ("M4") used by the German Navy's U-boat fleet to send encrypted messages during WWII, which Allied efforts tried to break under the leadership of Alan Turing at Bletchley Park and of Joe Desch in Dayton, Ohio. It is thought that fewer than 100 M4 Enigmas survived the war as they were produced in much smaller quantities than the 3-rotor machines (*illustrated right*, estimate: £200,000-300,000).

Sophie Hopkins, Christie's Specialist in Manuscripts and Archives, London, comments, *"The Christie's Books & Manuscripts department has hit upon a winning formula with our online science sales, which routinely attract hundreds of buyers and bidders from across the globe – many of them new to the auction world and to book collecting – all drawn by a carefully curated selection of autograph material, printed books, photographs and association objects from the most brilliant scientific minds of the modern age. For this sixth iteration in our hugely successful series, we are delighted to offer rare items from revolutionary thinkers of the 20th century – from Albert Einstein to Richard Feynman and another engaging tranche of material from the personal collection of Professor Stephen Hawking, this sale is a rare opportunity to acquire a range of unique items chronicling brilliant minds' lives and their visionary work."*



A Second World War Enigma Machine
A four-rotor Enigma Cipher Machine,
Olympia Büromaschinenwerke
Estimate: £200,000-300,000

Note to editors:

Christie's November 2018 online auction *On the Shoulders of Giants* realised a total of £1,824,375. The sale's top lot was Stephen Hawking's original dissertation which fetched £584,750 and the 22 lots from the estate of Stephen Hawking were 100% sold, realising £1,384,625, 7 times more than the pre-sale estimate. Further highlights included Stephen Hawking's medals, which achieved £296,750 and one of his iconic wheelchairs, which made £296,750 to benefit Stephen Hawking Foundation and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. These three lots were the most valuable lots achieved in a Christie's online auction in 2018 for the Classical Art category.

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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.*

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