

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Christie's Supreme, luxury handbag sale fetches more than \$2M

December 11, 2019



*Christie's Handbags x Hype sale sole Birkin bags alongside Supreme skateboards. Image credit: Christie's*

By STAFF REPORTS

Further solidifying streetwear's place in high-fashion, auction house Christie's "Handbags x Hype" sale saw an Hermès Birkin bag and a Supreme x Louis Vuitton trunk tie for the most expensive lots.

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The sale, which closed on Dec. 10, saw a total of \$2.165 million, with both the Hermès handbag and the Supreme trunk receiving winning bids of \$125,000. Reflecting the changing nature of luxury and the demand for hype-inducing merchandise, the sale attracted buyers from 22 nations.

"The energy and enthusiasm for the sale was seen from the first announcement to the global tour of highlights culminating with the highly-attended exhibition and events here in New York," said Caitlin Donovan, head of sale for handbags and accessories at Christie's, in a statement. "The strong sale results demonstrate Christie's ability to meet our clients' ever-changing needs and rise to new market demands.

"This auction successfully captured luxury as it is defined today and we were delighted to see the wide range of global participation with bidders from the U.S., Asia, Europe and the Middle East," she said.

### Hype meets luxury

With a sales model that relies on exclusivity to drive demand, Supreme has long taken a page from luxury's playbook. Included among the items up for auction during the Christie's sale were an Hermès-inspired ashtray and a suitcase made in collaboration with Rimowa, which sold for \$5,250.

Aside from Supreme's luxury crossovers, a collection of the brand's sport equipment and branded diversions was also sold. A range of skateboards, baseball equipment, a boxing set, pinball machine and Fender guitar were among the items up for sale.

Ninety-five percent of the Supreme lots sold during the online auction, compared to 89 percent of the total Handbags x Hype lots.

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This trunk is from a supreme collection of Supreme, offered for the very first time at Christie's,' says Caitlin Donovan (@raisindonovan), our Head of Sale for Handbags & Accessories in New York. . Supreme's iconic red box logo has shaped a new genre of collectors around the world. Each unique lot from the collection is laced with brand history and Supreme importance.' . Swipe to see more! . Handbags X Hype featuring A Collection of Supreme Skateboards & Accessories online auction, 26 November 10 December. . @christieshandbags #fashion #trunk #toolkit #stratocaster #guitar #collectable #collector #collecting #luxury #streestyle

A post shared by Christie's (@christiesinc) on Nov 29, 2019 at 7:20am PST

### *Instagram post from Christie's*

In addition to the \$125,000 matte white Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Birkin, a number of Herms handbags garnered five-figure sale prices.

The Handbags x Hype sale is part of Christie's Luxury Week and Design sales in New York. Christie's is currently hosting public exhibits of its design items at its Rockefeller Center galleries.

Among the collections on sale is an *Elle Dcorm* magazine editorial feature turned charity auction. Each issue this year has concluded with a page showcasing an item created by an artisan that has no price tag, since it is "Not For Sale."

From Dec. 2 to 13, these previously unattainable objects are available to purchase via Charitybuzz courtesy of Christie's and *Elle Decor*. Included among the online auction lots are a velvet gown from Oscar de la Renta and de la Cuona and a table by Barnaba Fornasetti that creates an optical illusion.

[View this post on Instagram](#)

Welcome to ELLE Decor's second annual "Not For Sale" auction! We're celebrating with a striking selection of one-of-a-kind, artisan-made pieces that have been featured in each ELLE Decor issue over the past year. From December 2nd to the 13th, the items will be auctioned off at @christiesinc and online at @charitybuzz, and the Not For Sale auction will be on public exhibition from December 10th through the 13th at Christie's Rockefeller Center galleries. The best part? All proceeds from the auction will benefit charities chosen by each artisan. #EDNotForSale Click the link in our bio to see and bid on every item, and get a preview of the selection here.

A post shared by ELLE Decor (@elledecor) on Dec 2, 2019 at 9:02am PST

### *Instagram post from Elle Decor*

Running concurrently is a Design exhibition and sale featuring works from designers and architects including chairs by Frank Lloyd Wright, Tiffany lamps and Lalique pieces. The auction will take place on Dec. 13.

The Dec. 12 Important Watches and American Icons sale will feature watches owned by famous figures including two Patek Philippe timepieces that belonged to President George H.W. Bush and a paired lot of watches owned by friends Ernest Hemingway and hotelier Charles C. Ritz.

Estimates for this auction are up to \$600,000, reflecting the rarity of the timepieces.

For an online watch sale, Christie's partnered with The Webster's Linda Addouana to style out the timepieces. The lots are depicted as part of holiday outfits, providing inspiration to would-be buyers.

A "Magnificent Jewels" sale on Dec. 11 will include signed jewelry from houses including Van Cleef & Arpels,

Cartier, Bulgari and Harry Winston. Continuing the theme of new luxury, one of the auction lots is a pair of diamond- and ruby-encrusted Beats headphones from Graff, which are estimated to sell for between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

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