

Record-breaking auction items in 2021

Here's a selection of the year's most expensive and intriguing sales



Record breaker

Sotheby's sold a copy of the first printing of the final text of the United States Constitution for US\$43.2 million, a world auction record for any book, manuscript, historical document or printed text.



Fast and financed

A 1995 McLaren F1 in a "time capsule" state with just 390 km on the clock sold for US\$20.5 million with Gooding & Company at the benchmark Monterey sales, the highest price fetched by a car at auction in 2021.



Pretty picture

Pablo Picasso's *Femme assise près d'une fenêtre (Marie-Thérèse)* was the most expensive painting to sell in 2021 when it fetched US\$103.4 million at Christie's 20th Century Evening sale in May.



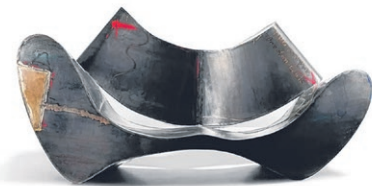
Auctioneer's best friend

Christie's set a new record for a fancy vivid purple pink diamond when it sold the internally flawless 15.81-carat Sakura diamond for HK\$226 million (US\$29.3 million) at its Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels sale in May.



Gold standard

The unique 1933 Double Eagle, the last gold coin issued by the United States Mint that can be legally owned by a private individual, was sold by Sotheby's in June for a record US\$18.9 million.



Sofa sale

Phillips sold a 1993 Ron Arad polished stainless steel "D-Sofa", number 1 of 3 prototypes, at its London Design Auction in June for a world record £1.2 million (US\$1.6 million) against a high estimate of just £120,000.



Out of this world

Literally out of this world, Christie's achieved a meteorite auction record with the £525,000 sale of a slice of the 4.5 billion-year-old Fukang meteorite discovered in Xinjiang province, China, in 2000.



Feeling lucky

The Colt single action revolver used by Pat Garrett to kill Billy the Kid sold at Bonhams' The Early West sale in Los Angeles for US\$6 million, a new auction world record for any firearm.



Slam dunk

A pair of Michael Jordan's Nike Air Ships – his earliest game-worn sneakers, attributed to his fifth NBA game – set a new world auction record when they were sold by Sotheby's for US\$1.5 million.



Record time

A two-train minute repeating grande and petite sonnerie wristwatch made by Philippe Dufour set a record for an independent watchmaker when it fetched SFr4.7 million (US\$5.2 million) with Phillips in November.



A cut above

A necklace featuring an octagonal step-cut 56.87-carat emerald and 120 diamonds totalling 65.75 carats set a new world auction record for a Zambian emerald when Phillips sold it for HK\$8.1 million (US\$1 million).



Bagging a winner

Owned by the iconic Jane Birkin herself, this much-loved Hermès Black Togo Birkin 35 achieved well over its guide price when it made £119,000 at Bonhams' July Designer Handbags and Fashion sale.