



Press information

'Leitz Photographica Auction' at the Leitz-Park in Wetzlar: winning bid of over 1 million euros for a Leica MP-2

Wetzlar, 11 June 2019. Under the new name 'Leitz Photographica Auction' (formerly 'WestLicht Photographica Auction'), the now 34th in the series of camera auctions, which took place in the Leica Welt in the Leitz Park in Wetzlar, registered numerous top auction results.

The 1 million euro mark was topped again at the auction on 8 June: Eventually sold for **1,020,000 euros** incl. buyer's premium, a **Leica MP-2** was the absolute highlight of the auction. Manufactured in the 1950s, the Leica MP-2 was the first M camera with an electric motor drive. It is considered to be one of the most significant M cameras ever to have been offered for sale by auction.

A further outstanding result at the auction was the sum of **456,000 euros** including buyer's premium achieved by the **Leica 250 Reporter GG with a Leica Motor MOOEV**. It is one of the rarest and most valuable cameras manufactured by Leitz/Leica, and it is estimated that only fifteen examples have survived until today. Most examples of this camera were delivered during World War II and were lost in the chaos of war.

With a winning bid of **360,000 euros** including buyer's premium, the **Leica M3 Prototype**, was another highlight of the auction. This camera is an extremely rare prototype of the M3 from the series of pre-production test-cameras produced in 1952/53. Also up for auction was the **Leica MP Chrome 'Fred Baldwin'** – a camera formerly owned by the US-American photographer. In beautiful condition, this camera achieved a hammer price that was around

twice as high as the original estimate. It changed hands for **60,000 euros** incl. the buyer's premium.

Alongside Leica rarities, numerous attractive collector's pieces from other manufacturers were also sold at the auction. Lot 370, a Russian-made **Fed I Fedka**, was probably the biggest surprise of the day. With a starting price of 1,000 euros, bidders drove the price of the camera to an unexpected **31,200 euros** incl. buyer's premium.

'Leitz Photographica Auction' is one of the world's leading auction houses for classic and vintage cameras and photographica, and has firmly established itself on the international scene. A rare example of the Leica 0-Series produced in 1923 was a sensational highlight at the auction in 2018. The camera achieved a record-breaking hammer price of 2.4 million euros and still holds the record for the highest price ever paid for a camera sold by auction.

Note for journalists:

The image material has been released for publication in print media or temporary online publications and may only be used in direct association with reporting on the 34th Leitz Photographica Auction from 8 June 2019.