



OstLicht Photo Auction Autumn 2023

Twice a year, OstLicht Photo Auction puts high-quality pieces of photographic history up for auction. The fall edition took place today, November 18, 2023, at the OstLicht Gallery in Vienna and ended with a remarkable sales rate of almost 80 percent.

At 45,600 euros (starting price: 8,000 euros), the highest result was achieved by a photograph by Ren Hang. The exceptional Chinese artist presented his first comprehensive exhibition in Europe at OstLicht in 2015 and has been one of the world's most outstanding contemporary photographers ever since. He died in 2017 at the age of just 29. The few prints he left behind have been sought-after collector's items ever since. A second, also untitled photograph by Ren Hang sold for 24,000 euros (starting price: 8,000 euros).

The bid for a previously unknown portrait by Gustav Klimt, taken by Friedrich Viktor Spitzer in 1905 and whose discovery can be described as a photo-historical sensation, was particularly eagerly awaited. The surprise find achieved a top bid of 26,400 euros at the auction (starting price: 16,000 euros).

The bidders in the room, on the phone, and online also competed intensely for a large-format Polaroid by Luigi Ghirri. The work entitled "Amsterdam" from the series "Still Life" was ultimately auctioned for 22,800 euros (starting price: 4,000 euros).

Another focus of the OstLicht Photo Auction was the second part of the "In Our Time" collection, comprising around 100 exhibition prints. This traveling exhibition, presented around 1990, was the largest group exhibition of the legendary Magnum photo agency to date with around 280 photographs. Many of the mostly hand-signed prints achieved top prices and went to collectors in the US, Asia, and Europe. The third and final part of the legendary Magnum collection will be auctioned at the upcoming OstLicht Photo Auction in spring 2024.

All prices quoted include premium.

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