

Press release

OSTLICHT CAMERA AND PHOTO AUCTION

Vienna, November 21, 2025

Two auctions – one day of photographic history

On **November 21, 2025**, **OstLicht** in Vienna presents an extraordinary double event: the **OstLicht Camera Auction** and **Photo Auction**, offering a sweeping panorama of over **175 years of photography** – from early daguerreotype cameras to masterpieces of fine art photography.

Passion for cameras and craft – The Leica collection

At the heart of the Camera Auction is an exceptional **Leica collection**, assembled in the 1990s and remarkable for its outstanding originality and condition. It includes **Leitz cameras, lenses, accessories and literature**, many in near-mint condition.

This collection is not defined by record estimates, but by the **collector's genuine passion for his objects** – a sentiment clearly reflected in the catalogue. Many lots start at just **200 euros**, offering enthusiasts and newcomers alike the chance to own an authentic piece of Leica history.

The sale also features a wide range of rare and historically important cameras from various manufacturers and eras – a fascinating journey through the evolution of photographic technology.

A milestone of photographic history – Charles Chevalier daguerreotype camera, 1841/1842

Among the highlights is **lot 258**, an **¼-plate daguerreotype sliding-box camera** made by **Charles Chevalier (1804–1859)**, the Parisian optician who crafted the first photographic lenses for **Niépce** and **Daguerre**.

The camera bears the oval embossing “Maison CHARLES CHEVALIER Ingénieur Palais Royal 158, Fondée en 1767, MÉDAILLE D’OR 1834” – a mark known from only a **few authentic surviving examples**. Preserved in **original condition**, it includes the matching **Chevalier lens, brass cap, ground-glass adapter, and wooden daguerreotype holder**.

Only a **handful of Chevalier cameras** with this embossing are known worldwide, including examples in the **Musée Nicéphore Niépce**, the **Musée Français de la Photographie**, and the **Deutsches Museum**.

This extraordinary instrument ranks among the **most important early cameras still in private hands**, a cornerstone of early photographic history and a testament to OstLicht Camera Auctions’ dedication to rediscover and preserve cultural and technical excellence.

OstLicht Photo Auction – Masterpieces from 1850 to the present

Held on the same day, the **Photo Auction** features around more than **200 lots**, presenting an impressive overview of photographic art from **1850 to the present day**. Alongside icons of early photography, the sale includes **historically important, journalistic and artistic works** – from rare vintage prints to modern and contemporary classics.

The highlight of the sale is **Julia Margaret Cameron’s (1815–1879) “Julia Jackson” from 1867** – one of the defining portraits of the Victorian era. Julia Jackson (1846–1895), Cameron’s niece and later mother of **Virginia Woolf**, embodies the **Pre-Raphaelite ideal of beauty** that pervaded mid-19th-century art. Captured shortly before her marriage, Cameron presents her with a profound sense of vulnerability and inner strength, rendered through her signature **soft focus**, expressive **lighting**, and emotional immediacy.

Cameron’s ability to transform photography into a medium of artistic and psychological depth made her one of the first true masters of the photographic portrait. Signed, annotated and bearing the **Colnaghi blind stamp**, this print is among the **very few extant vintage examples** of her work in private hands.

With **starting prices from 600 euros**, the auction offers collectors and new enthusiasts alike a unique opportunity to explore 175 years of photographic creativity and expression.

The camera auction starts at **11 a.m. (CET)**, the photo auction at 5 p.m. (CET) at OstLicht, Gallery for Photography in Vienna.

OstLicht Auction

Friday, November 21, 2025

Live at

OstLicht Gallery

Absberggasse 27

1100 Vienna

or online at

ostlicht-auction.com/

Press contact

Matthias K. Heschl

What 1f. Communications

+43 699 144 22 578

presse@ostlicht-auction.com