

# PHILLIPS

MEDIA ALERT

## PHILLIPS CELEBRATES THE VISION OF SEBASTIÃO SALGADO WITH THE LARGEST SINGLE OFFERING OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S WORK AT AUCTION

Landmark Group of Signed Masterworks Spanning Four Decades to be Offered This April

*Sebastião Salgado: A Life's Voyage* to be Featured in a Dedicated Online Sale and Phillips' Seasonal Live Auction of Photographs in New York on 11 April



**Sebastião Salgado**

*Iceberg Between Paulet Island and the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica, 2005*

Estimate: \$40,000–60,000

To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April

NEW YORK – 26 APRIL 2026 – Phillips is proud to announce *Sebastião Salgado: A Life's Voyage*, a landmark presentation honoring one of the most influential cultural figures of the modern era. Comprising 30 signed photographs from a distinguished private collection, this exceptional group represents the largest single offering of Sebastião Salgado's work ever presented at auction. The selection will be offered through a [dedicated online sale](#) from 2–10 April, with additional examples to be included in Phillips' [live auction](#) of Photographs on 11 April in New York. In the wake of Salgado's passing in May 2025, the sale holds particular historical significance, as all lots are signed lifetime prints. Demand for Salgado's photographs has intensified markedly, underscoring his enduring relevance and global stature.

**Vanessa Hallett, Deputy Chairwoman, Americas, and Worldwide Head of Photographs,** said, “Following the remarkable success of our recent auctions of William Eggleston and Irving Penn, this offering of works by Sebastião Salgado continues Phillips’ commitment to presenting the most significant photographers of the modern era. Salgado holds an important place within the canon as both a photographer of extraordinary visual power and a global cultural figure. To present the largest group of his signed lifetime prints ever to appear at auction offers collectors a truly rare opportunity to engage with the breadth and depth of his vision at a pivotal moment in his legacy.”



**Sebastião Salgado**

Image from *Gold Mine* (portfolio of 20 prints), 1986

Estimate: \$100,000–150,000

To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April

Spanning more than four decades of Salgado’s extraordinary career, *A Life’s Voyage* traces the artist’s lifelong commitment to documenting the human condition and the fragile balance between humanity and nature. The photographs were captured across some of the most remote and consequential landscapes on Earth—from the Amazon rainforest and the Sahara Desert to Antarctica and sites of intense industrial labor—revealing Salgado’s unmistakable visual language.

Phillips is especially honored to present two rare and highly sought-after portfolios within the sale, *Gold Mine* and *Kuwait: A Desert on Fire*. Together, these emblematic bodies of work stand among the most powerful photographic achievements of the late 20th century. *Gold Mine* captures the monumental scale and physicality of artisanal gold mining in Serra Pelada, Brazil. Selected images from *Gold Mine* were published in *The Sunday Times Magazine* and *The New York Times Magazine* in 1987 and were included in Salgado’s seminal 1993 book, *Workers: An Archaeology of the Industrial Age*. In 2016, Taschen published a monograph of the series, titled *Gold*. Making its auction debut is Salgado’s masterful portfolio *Kuwait: A Desert on Fire*, documenting the historic efforts of the international team of firefighters to quell the conflagrations in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

Executed in Salgado’s signature black-and-white tones, the photographs are marked by their compositional rigor, emotional intensity, and profound humanism. Across themes of labor, migration, conflict, and environmental transformation, Salgado’s work transcends documentary photography to occupy a singular place in global visual culture. His impact is undeniable.



**Sebastião Salgado**

Church Gate Station, Western Railroad Line, Bombay, India, 1995

Estimate: \$6,000–8,000

To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April

Indeed, Salgado’s legacy extends far beyond the medium of photography. A committed environmentalist and humanitarian, he co-founded Instituto Terra with his wife, Lélia Wanick Salgado—one of the most successful large-scale reforestation initiatives in the world—which has restored degraded land in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest through the planting of millions of native trees and the revival of entire ecosystems. No other photographer in history has exerted such far-reaching influence across environmental, social, and cultural spheres.

Presented across both [live](#) and [online](#) platforms, *Sebastião Salgado: A Life’s Voyage* affirms Phillips’ leadership in the field of photography and its commitment to offering works of exceptional artistic, historical, and cultural importance.



**Sebastião Salgado**  
*Elephant (against light), Kafue National Park, Zambia, 2010*  
Estimate: \$8,000–12,000  
To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April



**Sebastião Salgado**  
Image from *Kuwait: A Desert on Fire* (portfolio of 20 prints), 1991  
Estimate: \$60,000–80,000  
To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April



**Sebastião Salgado**  
*Fireball, Greater Burhan Oil Field, Kuwait, 1991*  
Estimate: \$25,000–35,000  
To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April



**Sebastião Salgado**  
*Refugees in the Korem Camp, Ethiopia, 1984*  
Estimate: \$4,000–6,000  
To be Offered in the Live Photographs Auction on 11 April



**Sebastião Salgado**  
*Women Going to Market, Chimborazo Province, Ecuador, 1998*  
Estimate: \$6,000–8,000  
To be Offered in the Online Auction



**Sebastião Salgado**  
*Oaxaca, Mexico, 1980*  
Estimate: \$5,000–7,000  
To be Offered in the Online Auction

# PHILLIPS

EST. 1796

As Phillips marks its 230th anniversary in 2026, the house celebrates more than two centuries at the forefront of the global market for Modern & Contemporary Art, Design, and Luxury. Founded in 1796 by the charismatic auctioneer Harry Phillips, the company has, since its earliest days, offered a distinct and forward-looking approach to sales and collecting. Over the centuries, Phillips has delivered record-breaking results and landmark offerings, while also pioneering new modes of collecting via the likes of Dropshop. Through its partnership with Bacs & Russo, Phillips continues to lead the industry in watches, setting new benchmarks for excellence, innovation, and connoisseurship. Today, Phillips remains true to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founder while redefining the role of a 21st century auction house.

**Auction viewing:** 3-10 April

## **Auctions:**

### ***Sebastião Salgado: A Life's Voyage***

Online Auction 2-10 April

Click here for more information: <https://www.phillips.com/auction/NY040226>

## **Photographs**

11 April, New York

432 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Click here for more information: <https://www.phillips.com/auction/NY040126>

## **ABOUT PHILLIPS**

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning.

Visit [phillips.com](https://www.phillips.com) for further information.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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