

# KOLLERZURICH

PRE-SALE PRESS RELEASE

## TRINITY THE FIRST TYRANNOSAURUS REX SKELETON EVER TO BE OFFERED AT AUCTION IN EUROPE

Auction in Zurich on 18 April 2023

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Natural History • Space Exploration • Entertainment Memorabilia

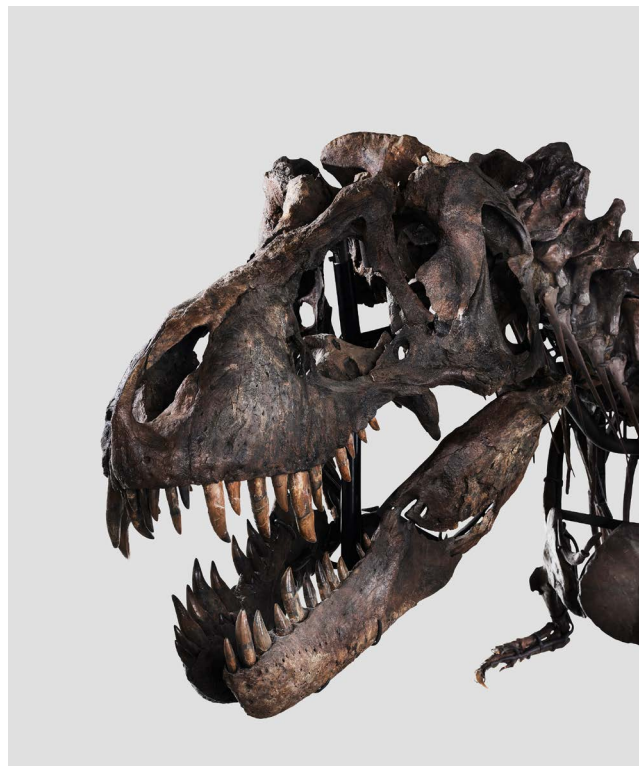
After the extremely successful first 'Out of This World' auction in June 2022, the highly anticipated sequel will take place on 18 April.

The undisputed star of the auction is the approximately 67-million-year-old **TRX-293 TRINITY Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton**.

**For the first time in Europe and only the third time worldwide**, a skeleton of an entire T. rex dinosaur of exceptional quality will be offered at auction.

Mounted in a dynamic, scientifically accurate and modern pose, it is among the finest specimens of one of the largest terrestrial predators ever to inhabit the Earth.

With an astonishing length of 11.6 metres (38 feet) and a towering height of 3.9 metres (12.8 feet), **Trinity is one of the most spectacular T. rex skeletons in existence**, a well-preserved and brilliantly restored fossil.



**TRX-293 TRINITY**

A Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton

Late Cretaceous, 65 – 67 million years. L 11.6 m, H 3.9 m W 2.65 m.

Estimate: CHF 5 / 8 million

**INVITATION TO TRX-239 TRINITY PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**29 March 2023, 1pm**  
**Tonhalle Zurich, Claridenstrasse 7, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland**

**KOLLER**  
— IN ASSOCIATION WITH —  
**WUNDERKAMMER**

**TONHALLE  
ORCHESTER  
ZÜRICH**

Programme:

1:00 pm Concert foyer: Viewing, photography / filming of T. rex

1:30 pm 'Kleine Tonhalle': Press conference with Cyril Koller, owner and CEO of Koller Auctions, Christian D. Link, Head of Department, 'Out of This World', Dr Hans-Jakob Siber, palaeontologist and director of the Dinosaur Museum, Aathal, Switzerland

followed by Concert foyer: Aperitif

**RSVP by 24 March: [green@kollerauctions.com](mailto:green@kollerauctions.com)**



The more than 50 per cent original bone material comes from three Tyrannosaurus specimens excavated between 2008 and 2013, from the Hell Creek and Lance Creek formations in Montana and Wyoming. Both sites are known for two of the most important Tyrannosaurus discoveries: 'Sue', which sold at auction for \$8.4 million in 1997, and 'Stan', whose world-record hammer price of \$31.8 million in 2020 catapulted dinosaur fossil prices into a realm usually reserved for the most sought-after works of art.

Fossils of dinosaurs and other living things have formed over the course of tens of thousands to hundreds of millions of years. This is only possible if the conditions are right – and why fossil finds are so rare. According to the April 2021 scientific journal Nature, **only 32 skeletons of adult T. rex specimens have been found worldwide**. The rare skeletons of adult T. rex specimens which have been unearthed are almost all now in institutional collections. **The Zurich auction is therefore an exceptional opportunity to acquire such a fossil of the highest quality.**

### ***A remarkable specimen***

Each of Trinity's 293 bones was painstakingly excavated, cleaned and restored before it could be assembled. For an entire dinosaur, this process often takes between seven and ten years – an enormous effort for a team of palaeontologists, preparators and conservators.

Trinity's rarity and importance is in large part due to its **incredibly well-preserved skull**, which comes from a single specimen. ***'Dinosaur skulls are very rare; they are among the most valuable components of fossil skeletons'***, said scientific advisor **Nils Knötschke, one of the world's leading fossil preparators**. ***'In fact, most dinosaurs are found without their skulls. But here we have original Tyrannosaurus skull bones, all from the same specimen'***.

***'In all three specimens, the preparation was done very well, and the whole is very well preserved'***, said Knötschke. ***'I was particularly surprised that not only the vertebrae, but also the filigree spines of the dorsal and cervical vertebrae are present. The very fine bones from inside the skull are usually lost, and these are also preserved in Trinity'***.

***'I was impressed when I saw it, because it all seems to fit together so nicely'***, said **Dr Hans-Jakob Siber, palaeontologist and director of the Dinosaur Museum in Aathal, Switzerland**. ***'It's one of the most impressive mounts I've seen. The quality of the restoration plus the quality of the mount sort of breathes life again into the specimen, which lived millions and millions of years ago. TRX-293 TRINITY would certainly be an astonishing attraction in any museum in the world'***.

## PUBLIC PREVIEWS

Trinity will be on view at the **Tonhalle Zurich** on selected dates from **29 March – 16 April**, by appointment. Journalists are kindly requested to contact Christian Link for a visit: [link@kollerauctions.com](mailto:link@kollerauctions.com).

The general public can visit by reserving time slots on Koller Auctions' website: [www.kollerauctions.com/en/trinity-slot.htm](http://www.kollerauctions.com/en/trinity-slot.htm)

All other lots in the 'Out of This World' auction will be exhibited at **Koller Auctions in Zurich** from **14 – 18 April**.

### TRX-239 TRINITY

#### Fact sheet

Length: 11.6 metres (38 feet)

Height: 3.9 metres (12.8 feet)

Height with base: 4.37 metres (14.3 feet)

Width: 2.65 metres (8.7 feet)

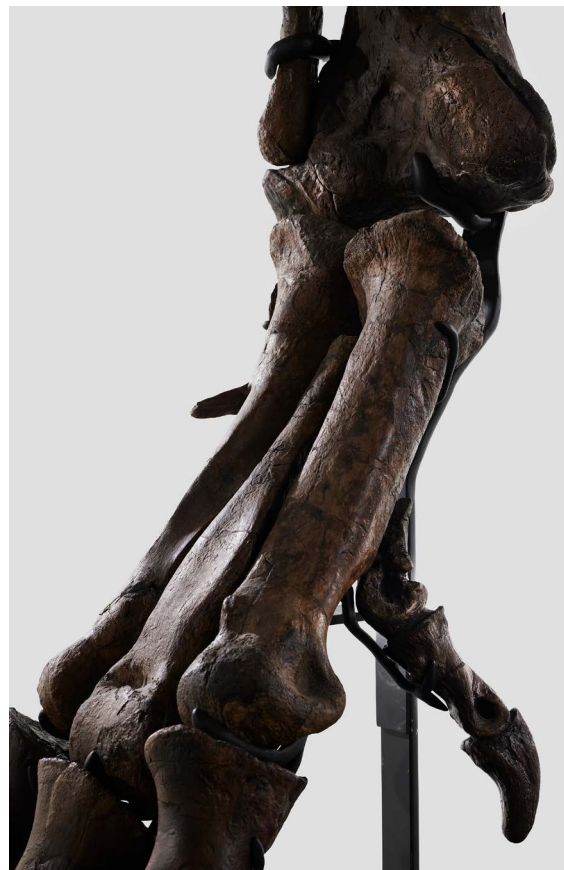
Skull: 1.4 × 1.2 metres (4.5 × 3.9 feet)

From a US private collection

The bone material from which TRX-293 is assembled dates to the Late Cretaceous period, making it 65 to 67 million years old. T. rex was one of the last dinosaur species to exist at the time of the abrupt extinction of this order in the Cretaceous.

**Estimate: CHF 5 – 8 million**

**Auction in Zurich: 18 April 2023**



### *Trinity x Tonhalle*

The giant skeleton of TRX-TRINITY will be displayed in the **magnificent main lobby of the historic Tonhalle concert hall in Zurich**. From 29 March to 16 April, concert-goers as well as visitors who have reserved time slots will be able to admire the impressive Tyrannosaurus rex in a unique setting on the Lake of Zurich.

The choice of the Tonhalle Zurich as the exhibition venue for TRX-293 TRINITY is particularly appropriate for **Cyril Koller**, owner and CEO of Koller Auctions: *'It was in the Kongresshaus, situated in the same building complex as the Tonhalle, where Koller held its very first auction 65 years ago'*. Christian D. Link, Head of Department for 'Out of This World', adds: *'Exhibiting Trinity in the Tonhalle is in keeping with the spirit of the contemporary cabinet of curiosities. A dinosaur doesn't have to be shown in a museum, it can also be in an unexpected public space, or even in someone's home. Items taken out of their traditional context often take on a new and interesting significance'*.

### *The 'Out of This World' Auction*

The 'Out of This World' auction at Koller, in which the T. rex Trinity will be offered, presents items from a variety of eclectic fields, including natural history, space exploration and entertainment memorabilia. What these intriguing natural and man-made objects all have in common is that they constitute a fascinating contemporary cabinet of curiosities. Some highlights include **an extremely rare Mars meteorite called 'The Red Colossus'** (lot 942, CHF 150 000 / 250 000), **an Australian gold nugget** weighing over 1.6 kilograms (lot 935, CHF 120 000 / 150 000), and **a Soviet cosmonaut's 1980s space suit** (lot 911, CHF 65 000 / 85 000).



935  
**GOLD NUGGET**  
Victoria, Australia  
1 647 g  
16.8 × 8.8 cm  
CHF 120 000 / 150 000



911  
**SOKOL-KV2 SPACE SUIT**  
Manufactured by NPP Zvezda  
1985  
165 × 70 × 40 cm  
CHF 65 000 / 85 000



942  
**THE RED COLOSSUS  
MARTIAN METEORITE**  
Official meteorite name: Swayyah 005  
2 145 g, 16.6 × 11.5 × 9.3 cm  
CHF 150 000 / 250 000

#### PRESS CONTACT

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#### ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in Geneva, Munich, Dusseldorf, Florence, and Beijing. Each year Koller holds over 80 auctions, covering all of the major collecting categories in the fine and decorative arts, jewellery & watches, Asian art, natural history, books and wine. Koller regularly sets record prices and benefits from a large base of international bidders. With its team of highly experienced specialists, the family-owned auction house combines the distinct advantages of an internationally active auction house with Swiss reliability and efficiency.



For high-resolution photos of the *T. rex* Trinity, and other highlights of the *Out of This World* auction, click [here](#)

For more information, catalogues, videos and a link to the special Trinity landing page, click [here](#)

Click on the catalogue images to view the catalogues in flip-PDF format.