

Catawiki & The Elephant - Ivory Guidelines



In today's fast-moving, ever-changing world, we are witnessing increased pressure on the world's wildlife. African species are often seen as worst affected, particularly elephants and rhinoceroses, both of which continue to be killed for their ivory. Sadly, illegal poaching of ivory to sell on to the Asian markets shows little sign of lessening.

We recognise that continuing to list 'modern day' ivory for sale at auction could be viewed as in some way contributing to the pressure for poaching. **Catawiki has therefore taken the decision to no longer accept any post-1900 elephant ivory in our auctions.**

So what does this mean in practice?

Does it mean that antique ivory items are no longer permitted? Not at all, but the new regulations introduced as of 1st January 2019 have been carefully drafted to **guarantee that only certifiably pre-1900 items are listed at auction.**

For us to be able to accept lots containing pre-1900 ivory for auction, sellers are now required to obtain an Appraisal Report from a certified appraiser (or a trusted expert who is fully able to properly assess and identify the ivory).

Before proceeding further, it is strongly recommended that sellers first submit the item, so our Category Experts can check if the piece in question is suitable, before going to the expense of obtaining an Appraisal Report. In that case, our experts will inform you that your lot is suitable but requires the Appraisal Report before it can be auctioned.



The Appraisal Report must contain the following:



1. The appraiser's confirmation that he/she has physically inspected the item in question
(digital inspections are not acceptable)
2. A full description of the item, to properly and fully identify it
3. Size of the item
4. Photographs of the item (minimum of 1)
5. Species name (for example, elephant)
6. The 'effective' date of the item, confirming it is from 1900 or earlier
7. A statement confirming that the Appraiser has no present or prospective interest (financial or otherwise) in the item
8. The report should include the date when the report was completed and signed, the name of the appraiser, together with the appraiser's full contact details

A photographic image of the report, making sure it is wholly readable, should accompany pre-1900 ivory lots submitted for final approval. Catawiki cannot guarantee that your item will be accepted for our auctions, even if a complete report has been provided.

If further information or advice is required, please contact our Customer Support team.

