Sotheby’s has once again joined forces with NIGO® to stage its first auction dedicated to “Star Wars” collectibles: “Return of the NIGO”. From the moment “Star Wars” first hit the cinemas in May 1977, it has grown into an unparalleled cultural phenomenon, inspiring collectors from across the globe. Many of the earliest, rarest and most prized collectibles associated with the film series feature as part of this vast collection, assembled in its entirety by the visionary Japanese designer, NIGO®. More than 600 original action figures are on offer alongside objects ranging from replica Darth Vader helmets to autographed lightsabers, vintage film posters and even a Jabba the Hutt cookie jar. Ahead of the release of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” this December, both dedicated collectors and “Star Wars” enthusiasts alike will discover something for them with estimates ranging from US$100 up to US$35,000. The “Return of the NIGO” collection will be offered in an online auction at sothebys.com/starwarsauction and ebay.com/sothebys at 10.00am EST and 1.00pm EST.

“As a designer, I have always been inspired by Star Wars. I am honoured to be launching this sale and hope that it will bring excitement to Star Wars fans around the world.”

– NIGO –
All 175 lots come from the private collection of the Japanese designer, music producer and creative entrepreneur NIGO®, who has spent decades amassing one of the most acclaimed collections of “Star Wars” rarities. NIGO®, who launched the hugely successful clothing lines A Bathing Ape (BAPE), Ice Cream, and Billionaire Boys Club (co-founded with Pharrell Williams), has been collecting toys and figurines since the age of six. Among NIGO®’s favourite characters is the enigmatic bounty hunter Boba Fett, instructed by Darth Vader to hunt down Han Solo. The sale features more than 50 variations of the Boba Fett action figure.

“Return of the NIGO” follows in the wake of “NIGO® Only Lives Twice,” the “white glove” sale of 250 pieces of collectibles, jewellery and watches, luxury goods, design furniture and contemporary art from his private collection in Hong Kong in October last year. The sale fetched a total of US$4.5 million (HK$35 million), more than double the pre-sale high estimate.

The galaxy of “Star Wars” fans will have the opportunity to bid on some of the film’s rarest and most sought-after collectibles. This includes toys produced only in the most-limited of numbers, such as a Luke Skywalker figurine with double telescoping lightsaber (est. US$12,000–18,000), quickly withdrawn from the market due to the propensity for the lightsaber to snap off – one of only a handful available in such fine condition. Also on offer are set of “Revenge of the Jedi” backing cards (est. US$3,000–5,000) which were produced before George Lucas decided that “revenge” was unsuitable for the film’s title as a true Jedi would never seek revenge! Further highlights include two complete sets of collectible “Power of the Force” coins, which were only available on special request from the manufacturer Kenner (est. US$25,000–35,000) and the earliest item of “Star Wars” merchandise that Lucas Studios ever licensed: the Early Bird Certificate Display Package (est. US$7,000–9,000).

Highlights from the collection will be on show from 4–11 December as part of a private exhibition at The Condé Nast Gallery — an exclusive gallery space that is part of Condé Nast Venues at One World Trade Center in New York City.
1  
Two Star Wars Power of the Force coin sets, 1985  
Estimate $25,000–35,000  
Two complete sets of 63 coins displayed to show the fronts and backs of the coins, custom framed in black metal with detailed insert.  
A set of coins was only available by special request from Kenner and there are two full sets in this frame.

2  
Star Wars Luke Skywalker action figure with ‘double-telescoping’ lightsaber, 1978  
Estimate $12,000–18,000  
A key Star Wars item with rare two-piece double-telescoping lightsaber, there are approximately only 20 confirmed examples.

3  
Star Wars ‘tri-logo’ General Madine action figure, 1983  
Estimate $10,000-$15,000  
One of the true rare items with approximately only 12 known example, this piece had a limited release and is in exceptional near perfect condition.

4  
Canadian Star Wars Empire Strikes Back seven-figure multi-pack, 1980  
Estimate $8,000–12,000  
Sold almost exclusively through Sears Canada in 1980, making them very rare today, this example includes Boba Fett, Luke Skywalker and Han Solo.
Star Wars ‘Early Bird Certificate Package’
store display, 1977
Estimate $7,000–9,000

For the 1977 Christmas season Kenner, who was not ready for the overwhelming success of Star Wars, had no action figure product and no time to get it to the shelves. Instead they came up with an empty cardboard envelope with a cardboard display as something they could get to market quickly. This Store Display is for that very first item and includes a counter top display bin with header card and original shipping box. There are only approximately 5 known complete examples and this piece appears to have never been used.

Five Star Wars ‘12B-back’ action figures, 1978
Estimate $4,000–6,000
Including Chewbacca, Ben Kenobi, Sand People, C-3PO, and Luke Skywalker.

Darth Vader CinemaCast Statue, 1994
Estimate $200–400
8

Star Wars Revenge of the Sith clonetrooper helmet, Master Replicas, 2005
Estimate $300–500
With stand and plaque, limited edition of 2500.

9

Two Star Wars Revenge of the Jedi R2-D2 proof cards
Estimate $3,000–5,000
Including the Blank card sample and the no name Original R2-D2 Blank C-8.5+ and Blank Name Plate C-9.

10

Four Star Wars Revenge of the Jedi ‘Bespin’ proof cards
Estimate $3,000–5,000
Including Black Bespin Guard, Han Solo Bespin, Lobot, and Ugnaught.

11

Yoda Plush toy, 2005
Estimate $100–200
Celebration Exclusive Plush with original tag and bag.
12
Complete set of Star Wars Droids action figures, 1985
Estimate $4,000–6,000
Including Boba Fett, C-3PO, R2-D2, A-Wing Pilot, Kea Moll, Thall Joben, Jan Tosh, Kez Iban, Jord Dusat, Uncle Gundy, Tig Fromm, and Sise Fromm.

13
Star Wars Polish Version of A New Hope Poster, 1978
Estimate $500–700
Jakub Erol version of A New Hope featuring C-3PO.

14
Signed Star Wars Revenge of the Sith Darth Vader helmet, 2006
Estimate $1,000–2,000
With stand and plaque signed by Hayden Christensen, limited edition 399/500.
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About NIGO®

NIGO®, born Tomoaki Nagao in 1970, is a Japanese designer, music producer and creative entrepreneur.

In 1993 he opened a store named “Nowhere” in Harajuku, Tokyo, and founded the popular street fashion brand A Bathing Ape in the same year. NIGO® later co-founded Billionaire Boys Club and Ice Cream – two other hugely successful clothing lines – with his longtime friend and collaborator Pharrell Williams.

NIGO®’s distinct taste and his diverse interest have driven him to embark on various design ventures – most notably his fruitful relationship with the New York-based artist and designer KAWS. He also manages to create much hype in the music world, having owned a record label and is the DJ and producer of the Japanese hip hop group TERIYAKI BOYZ®. NIGO® sets foot in the restaurant and cafe business as well, overseeing CURRY UP® and 2-CAFE.

Currently, NIGO® is Designer of Human Made and Creative Director of UNIQLO’s t-shirt brand UT. He is also in a long-term partnership with Adidas Originals.

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*Estimates do not include buyer’s premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer’s premium.

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