

Wikipedia creator's computer and NFT of first edit up for auction

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The personal computer used by Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales is going up for auction.

The personal computer that Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales used when programming the online reference resource 20 years ago is going under

the hammer, along with an NFT memorializing his first edit on the platform, auctioneers said Friday.

The Strawberry iMac was the machine Wales "used for development and research at the time of the website's launch on January 15, 2001," said auction house Christie's, which is overseeing the sale that began Friday in New York.

The second lot is for an NFT—Non-Fungible Tokens are unique digital objects that confer ownership through blockchain technology—created by Wales of Wikipedia's debut onscreen image when he posted the first words, "Hello world," Christie's specialist Peter Klarnet told AFP.

The NFT, presented in JPEG format, will be interactive, with the buyer able to edit the page, "which can be reset with a timer to revert to its original state," according to Christie's.

Part of the proceeds from the sales will help fund Wales's WT.Social project, a "nontoxic alternative" social media network that uses an advertising-free model.

The two lots are for sale online through December 15, with Christie's hoping they will sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars, Klarnet said.

The new darling art form for some collectors and investors, NFTs have become staples of auction houses and the art market.



A bulletproof vest worn by rapper Kanye West was also going under the hammer at Christie's auction house in New York.

An NFT of the World Wide Web's source code sold in July for \$5.4 million at Sotheby's, while the all-digital work of American artist Beeple drew \$69.3 million in March at Christie's, an NFT record.

Also on Friday Christie's announced the auction of a bulletproof vest worn by rap megastar Kanye West during a party marking the release of his 2021 album "Donda."

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