



PRESS RELEASE - NATURAL HISTORY
AUCTION - NOVEMBER 21ST 2018, PARIS

This fall, Artcurial will be the stage of a scene taken right out of the film *Jurassic Park*: the reconstitution of a prehistoric combat between an *Allosaurus*, carnivore of the Tyrannosaurus family, and a *Camptosaurus*.

This is the first time in the world that a combat scene between two fighting dinosaurs is presented on the art market.

The two 4-meter long skeletons were discovered in the state of Wyoming, USA



PARIS - In the heart of Paris, Artcurial will host an astounding reconstruction during the Natural History auction held on 21st November 2018.

Two monumental dinosaurs will invest the auction house in a Homeric scene: a battle between an *Allosaurus* and a *Camptosaurus*. One is a carnivore that could weigh up to 2 tons, the other is an herbivore measuring up to 7m long.

These two skeletons from the Jurassic era (154 - 148 million years BC) in a remarkable state of conservation were discovered in central United States. The first, 55% complete, is one of the best examples of *Allosaurus* ever found. The second, 90% complete, was entirely reconstituted by American paleontologists.

The two giants will be set up in the Artcurial salon, on the Rond-point des Champs-Élysées, on Tuesday 13th November, for 5 days of public exhibition.

«For the first time, a battle scene between an Allosaurus and a Camptosaurus will be presented on the art market. This will be a spectacular event.»

Isabelle Boudot de la Motte,
Auctioneer, Artcurial



Skeleton de *Allosaurus Jimmadseni*
estimate : 600 000 - 800 000 €

Skeleton de *Camptosaurus Dispar*
estimate : 500 000 - 700 000 €



Skeleton
Allosaurus Jimmadseni
Upper Jurassic
(154 - 148 million years)
complete to 55 %
4,58 x 1,70 x 54 cm
estimate : 600 000 - 800 000 €

Allosaurus Jimmadseni

Unearthed in the American West soil where it was imprisoned for millennia, this fossilized skeleton was reconstituted by American Paleontologists.

The Allosaurus was one of the most ferocious predators of the Jurassic era. A carnivore and a scavenger, it was certainly the nightmare of all Ornithopters, Stegosauri or Sauropods such as the Diplodocus, the Brachiosaurus and the Camptosaurus living nearby.

The Allosaurus was one of the major theropods, the same family as the Tyrannosaurus. It is estimated that it could reach up to 10 to 12 meters long and weigh 1 to 2 tons. For over 150 million years it dominated the immersed land of Laurasia, currently North America and Europe.

Its skull can measure up to 85-90 centimeters. While massive, it is not heavy due to the presence of several large openings located between various skull bones, helping to alleviate and reduce the solid structure in a network of bone stems.

Its easily lost serrated and curved teeth, grow back. Studies show that as the pressure exerted by its jaw was fairly low, the Allosaurus had to deliver great downward head blows to slice of its prey's flesh, using its teeth as axes.

Its front legs are shorter than the hind legs and have three fingers, ended by long, strongly curved claws sometimes measuring up to 15 cm. It has agile and powerful limbs. Its large and muscular hind legs allow him to run up to 30 or even 50 km/h.



Skeleton
Camptosaurus Dispar
Upper Jurassic
(154 - 148 millions year)
complete to 90 %
3,76 x 1,40 x 94 cm
estimate : 500 000 - 700 000 €



Camptosaurus Dispar

Measuring up to 6-7 m long and weighing nearly 800 kg, the Camptosaurus is an herbivore. This 90% complete fossil was discovered in Wyoming, United States.

Its skull is elongate, low and massive. Its jaw contains approximately 3000 teeth spiked with several smaller barbs which easily penetrate plant leaves and stems. As these can be very tough, their teeth wear down rapidly, becoming almost flat. Its jaw ends with a beak of sorts that allows him to introduce plants into the mouth, then sliced by teeth.

The Camptosaurus is a rather massif animal with a large stomach to digest the enormous quantity of leaves, roots and branches he ingurgitates. It has long robust hind legs and short forelegs. The musculature of its hind legs allows it to reach a speed of 25-40 km/h. Mainly a biped, its forelegs are not robust enough to walk, but can support its weight for a short period of time: it can stand on its four legs to devour the plants found on the ground. Its long, heavy tail is used to keep balance.

A placid herbivore, its only means of defense against large predators such as the Allosaurus is flight.



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INFORMATION

Assembly on Tuesday November 13, 2018
Exhibition on Thursday 15 to Monday 19 November 2018
Auction on Wednesday, 21 November 2018, at 2:30 pm.

Artcurial - 7, Rond-Point des Champs-Élysées - 75008 Paris

HD visual available on request
Catalogues available online at www.artcurial.com

À VENIR CHEZ ARTCURIAL

20th November: *Italian Design*

30th December: *Paris#Marrakech* auction

ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, Artcurial, a multidisciplinary auction house based in Paris, reinforces its leading position on the international art market in 2017.

With 3 sale venues in Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong-Kong, the House totals 191.1 million euros in sales volume in 2017.

It covers the whole spectrum of major specialties: Beaux-Arts to decorative arts, collector automobiles, jewellery, collector timepieces, fine wines and spirits...

Resolutely turned toward the international market, Artcurial asserts its network abroad with representation offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna as well as a presence in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and biannual exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial organised its first sale in Hong Kong and in Morocco.

www.artcurial.com

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