



PRESS RELEASE - ART DECO
AUCTION - NOVEMBER 27TH 2018, PARIS

Artcurial will present an emblematic piece of the French capital at auction on **27th November**: a *segment of the Eiffel Tower staircase*.

Measuring more than 4 meters in height, it comes from the original spiral staircase, dating from 1889, which linked the 2nd and 3rd floor of the monument.

In 2016, Artcurial sold another segment of the iron edifice for half a million euros.



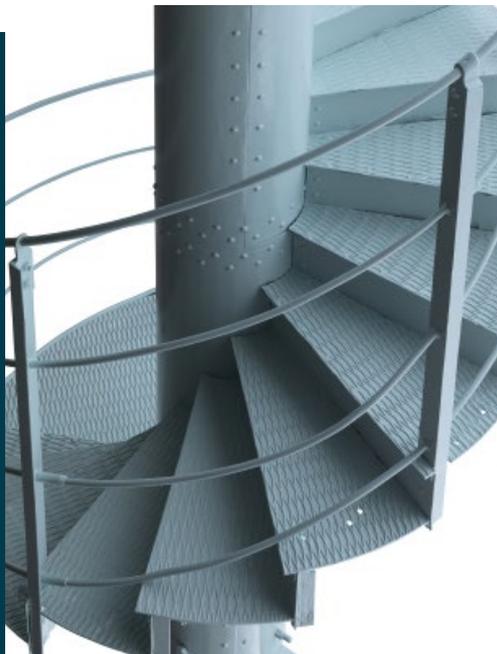
PARIS - On 27 November, during its traditional auction dedicated to Art Deco, Artcurial will present a segment of the historical Eiffel Tower staircase at auction. Measuring 4.3 meters in height and including approximately 25 steps, it is a piece of the monument's original spiral staircase, dating from 1889, which linked the 2nd to the 3rd floor. From a private collection in Canada, it is estimated € 40,000 - 60,000

This small piece of the iron landmark will be installed in Artcurial's courtyard, at the Rond-point des Champs-Élysées, Thursday November 8th for a 20-day public exhibition.

The staircase of the Eiffel Tower at the auction

In 1983, the installation of a lift between the ultimate two floors of the Eiffel Tower requires the disassembly of a staircase. It is then cut into 24 sections, from 2 to 9 meters in height. One of them is kept on the first floor of the Tower and the other three are donated to French museums: the Parisian museums of Orsay and La Villette and the Museum of Iron History in Nancy. On the first of December 1983, the 20 remaining sections are sold at auction. The sale is a resounding success and the separate units of stairs are acquired by collectors worldwide.

Today, the various segments can be found in prestigious sites across the world. One is located in the Yoishii Foundation gardens in Yamanashi in Japan, another near the Statue of Liberty in New York and one in Disneyland. Others are located in private collections in particular in Switzerland, Italy or Canada, as is the case of the portion presented by Artcurial on 27th November.





The Eiffel Tower,
Universal Exhibition of 1889
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Gustave Eiffel and his son-in-law
on the Eiffel Tower staircase
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In 1983, the sculptor César brought together elements issued from the construction of the tower for his sculpture *Tribute to Eiffel*. The only two sections remaining in France are acquired by the singer Guy Béart who resells them in March 2015. Some regularly reappear in public auctions.

This is the third time that Artcurial will present this historical piece at auction. In 2013, an original section measuring 3.5 meters in height reached €220,000 including fees. In 2016, section n°13 of the stairs which also connected the 2nd to the 3rd floor of the iron landmark exceeded its estimate tenfold, reaching €523,800. This is the piece numbered 4, the highest ever presented by the auction house.

A powerful symbol of modernity

Built by Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923) and his collaborators for the 1889 Universal Exhibition, the Eiffel Tower has become the French capital's insignia and one of the most famous monuments in the world. Its construction lasted two years, two months and five days from 1887 to 1889. 324 meters high, the «Dame de Fer» dominates Paris. Inaugurated on 31st March 1889, it represents France's industrial power and French technique. While strongly criticised in the famous *Protestation Des Artistes*, signed by Guy de Maupassant, Charles Garnier and Alexandre Dumas the younger, published in the newspaper *Le Temps* on 14th February 1887, it was met with a resounding popular success with 2 million visitors during the Universal Exhibition.

A true technical prowess, it was the highest monument in the world until 1930, date of the construction of the Chrysler Building in New York. A powerful symbol of modernity, the Eiffel Tower will never cease to inspire writers, painters, photographers and filmmakers. Robert Delaunay and Germaine Krull celebrate its aesthetic attributes, its «material», "height, airborne nature, its seemingly weightlessness and openwork design", to quote Roland Barthes.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

Assembly on Tuesday Thursday, November 8, 2018
Exposure from Thursday 8 to Tuesday 27 November 2018. Auction on Tuesday 27 November 2018, at 7pm

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

Visual available on request
Catalogues available online at www.artcurial.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARTCURIAL

30th December: Paris#Marrakech auction
including From *Constantinople to Tangier*, an Italian enthusiast's collection

ABOUT ARTCURIAL

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