

PRESS RELEASE - **URBAN & POP CONTEMPORARY**
SALE - **16 DECEMBER 2020, PARIS**

Invader is back at Artcurial! In the *Urban & Pop Contemporary* sale on 16 December, the auction house will present Invader's first major piece in Rubik's cubes: *Rubik Space* from 2005. This flagship piece is estimated to fetch between 400 000 and 600 000 €. In February, the Urban Art department at Artcurial opened the year with a record price for *Rubik Mona Lisa*, which sold for 480 200 € / 523 418 \$.



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PARIS - In the upcoming Urban & Pop Contemporary sale on 16 December, Artcurial will present some emblematic pieces of Urban Art by some of the biggest names in this field. The infamous incognito artist Invader is back at Artcurial with his major piece *Rubik Space*. Composed of 391 Rubik's Cubes, the iconic 1980s puzzle, it is estimated to fetch between 400 000 and 600 000 €. Exhibited in the Rubik Space show at the Patricia Dorfmann gallery in the spring of 2005, this eponymous piece is just the second made using Rubik's Cubes by Invader, and his first large-scale *rubikcubism* creation.

Invader rose to fame for creating work in staged 'viral invasions', with around 4000 invaders seen in the streets of 79 cities across the world for 3955 invaders put up in total. The French artist brought 2019 to a close with the creation of his biggest urban installation to date, a 70m² Space Invader mosaic close to the Pompidou centre in Paris. On 23 February this year, Artcurial achieved a world record price for a Rubik's Cube piece by the artist, *Rubik Mona Lisa*, which the Parisian auction house sold for 480 200 €.

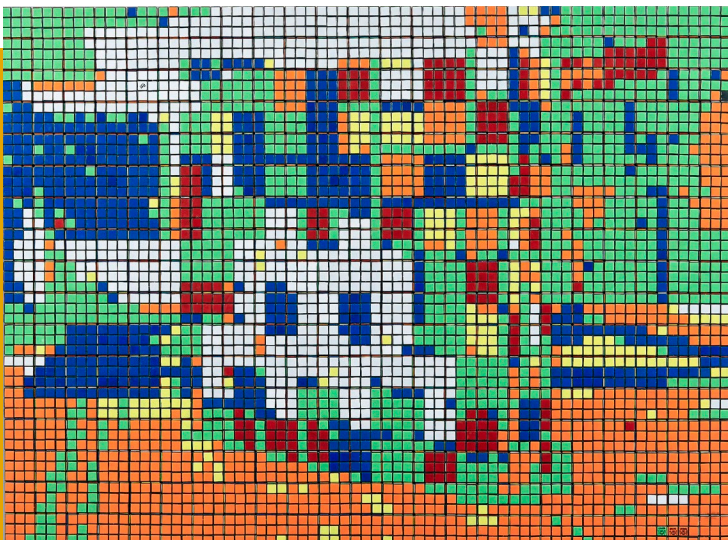
Invader and «Rubikcubism»

Invader focused his pixelator eye on the logic game Rubik's Cubes, and turned it into *Rubik Space*. The pixel, a new way of seeing the world, was submitted to a mathematical and logical exercise to create a piece of sculpture. It was the first time that these magical little 3D puzzles, one of the best-selling toys in the world, had been used to make art. With this pioneering and fundamental piece he launched "*Rubikcubism*" and "*object-paintings*" as he calls them.

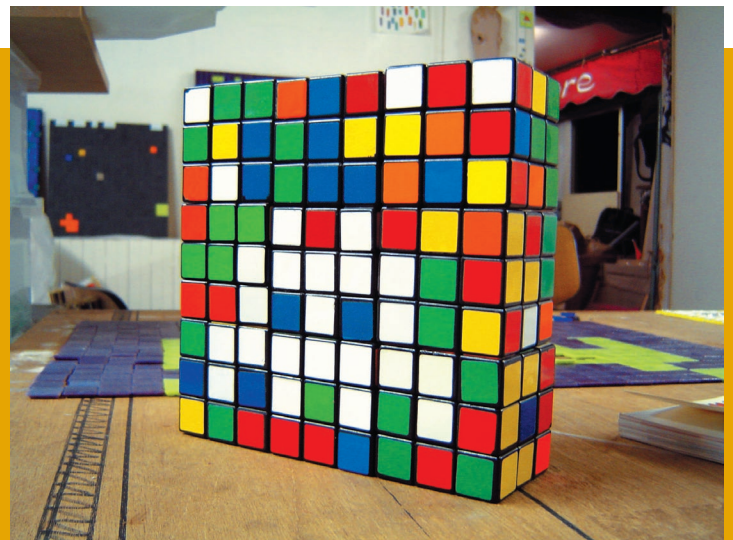
The work to be presented on 16 December has the Space Invader as its subject, the small monster that has been a recurrent theme in the street artist's work, this time placed into a much larger environment. With movement creating a subtle optical illusion, the space invader appears to detach itself and hover in front of the spectator. Invader used a photograph he took of his studio in 2004 showing his first Rubik's piece created from 9 cubes and pixelated it. The eye and brain work together to recreate the image and make sense of the scene. As the artist has said, if Space Invaders have come from outside to observe humans, it is humans, inside, who come to see the Space Invaders. This is a fundamental piece that was central to his inaugural Rubik's Cube exhibition.

« A foundational part of Invader's oeuvre, this unique and pioneering piece has not been seen on the market since it was first shown at Patricia Dorfmann in 2005. »

Arnaud Oliveux, Director
Urban Art department, Artcurial



INVADER
Rubik Space - 2005
Assembly of Rubik's cubes on plywood
95 x 129 x 5,50 cm
Estimate : 400 000 - 600 000 €



Studio, Paris, 2004 © Invader

Pixelated photo used by the artist for our *Rubik Space*, his first major work in Rubik's cubes (see left).

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BANKSY
Choose your weapon (grey) - 2010
Colour silkscreen
Estimate : 30 000 - 50 000 €



Shepard FAIREY (OBEY GIANT)
Obey Angela Davis - 2005
Aerosol paint and collage
Estimate : 15 000 - 20 000 €



Urban & Pop Contemporary

The sale on 16 December will present some of the most iconic figures in the contemporary urban art scene, alongside American graffiti artists who provided the spark for many of those working today.

Futura is represented with several works dating from 1981 to 1990 (estimates from 30 000 to 80 000 €), exhibited alongside a remarkable piece by José Parla (estimate : 50 000 - 70 000 €). There is a superb drawing from 1983 by Dondi White, with the visionary title *The saga begins* (estimate : 20 000 - 30 000 €) and an important work from 2008 by the Brazilian twins Os Gemeos, whose poetic vision celebrates this culture popular in Brazil (estimate : 80 000 - 120 000 €). Shepard Fairey, whose 30-year career has been highlighted recently, is represented with several notable pieces, *Visual Disobedience* (estimate : 40 000 - 60 000 €), a powerful portrait of the American activist Angela Davis (estimate : 15 000 - 20 000 €) and *Big Brother* (estimate: 40 000 - 60 000 €), illustrating Shepard's interest in propaganda ideologies.

Work by KAWS, Vhils and JR will also be included, along with BANKSY, whose work is currently seeing a growth in demand. *Choose your weapon -Queue Jumping Grey* is expected to attract interest and is estimated to fetch between 30 000 and 50 000 €. There will also be a section dedicated to *Beautiful Losers* – from the alternative movement *Do It Yourself* that started in the 1990s, and which the auction house dedicated a sale to in October 2019.

We look forward to seeing you on 16 December for this exciting urban line-up.



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INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Auction on Wednesday 16 December 2020, at 14.30

Artcurial - 7, rond-point des Champs-Élysées - 75008 Paris

High Resolution images available on demand
Catalogue available online at www.artcurial.com

UPCOMING AT ARTCURIAL

30 December 2020 : Sale *Majorelle and his contemporaries, Modern & Contemporary Moroccan, African & International Art*, by Artcurial Morocco

ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house, Artcurial confirmed its leading position in 2019 on the international art market scene. With three sale venues (Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong Kong), Artcurial achieved an overall sales total of 203,1 M€ in 2019. Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields: From Beaux-Arts to Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, jewellery and watches, Fine wine and spirits. With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Milan, Vienna and Brussels, Monte-Carlo and Munich and representatives in Beijing and Tel Aviv, as well as twice-yearly exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

www.artcurial.com

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