



Lot 33: Gustave EIFFEL, Staircase of the Eiffel Tower #17 - 1889, Sold 274 475 € / 329 370 \$ fees included on 1 December 2020 at Artcurial

PRESS RELEASE - THE STAIRCASE OF THE EIFFEL TOWER SOLD AT AUCTION
SALE RESULTS FROM 1 DECEMBER 2020 IN PARIS

On Tuesday 1 December, Artcurial's Art Deco / Design department awarded a much-awaited piece, emblematic of the French capital: a section of the Eiffel Tower staircase. Measuring nearly 3 metres high, it comes from the original spiral staircase, dating from 1889, which linked the 2nd and 3rd floors of the monument. Sold for €274,475 / \$329,370 including fees, it joins a private European collection.



PARIS - On 1 December, as part of Artcurial's traditional Art Deco and Design auction, a historical piece went under Maître Poulain's hammer : a section of the Eiffel Tower's staircase. Measuring 2.6-metres in height and with some 14 steps, this is part of the monument's original spiral staircase, dating from 1889, from the section linking the 2nd and 3rd floors. After a lively auction battle by phone, it was sold for 274 475 € / 329 370 \$ fees included.

Stairs from the 'Dame de Fer' at auction

In 1983, the installation of a lift between the bottom two sections of the Eiffel Tower required the dismantling of a staircase. It was cut into 24 sections, each measuring between 2 and 9 metres. One of these pieces was retained on the first floor of the Tower and three other sections were offered to French museums : The Musée d'Orsay and La Villette in Paris, along with the Musée de l'Histoire du Fer in Nancy. On 1 December 1983, the remaining 20 sections were sold at auction. The sale was a huge success and pieces of staircase were acquired by collectors from all around the world.

In 1983, the sculptor César acquired elements of the Eiffel Tower after renovation work was carried out, which he used in his sculpture *Homage à Eiffel*. The only two sections to remain in France were acquired by the singer Guy Béart who later sold them in March 2015. Sections of staircase have regularly reappeared in public sales.

This was the fourth time that Artcurial has presented a piece of the Eiffel Tower at auction. In 2013, an original section measuring 3.5m was sold by the auction house for 220 000 € including premium. In 2016, section no. 13 of the Dame de Fer (Iron Lady) fetched ten times its estimate, selling for 523 800 €. In 2018, section no.4 went under the hammer, realising 176 150 € including premium.



Gustave Eiffel at the top with his son-in-law and collaborator, M. Salles. 1889
© Neurdein Roger-Viollet, DR

Gustave EIFFEL
Staircase from the Eiffel Tower n° 17 -
1889. In bolted wrought iron
Sold 274 475 € / 329 370 \$ fees included

PRESS CONTACTS

Head of PR
Anne-Laure Guérin
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 86
alguerin@artcurial.com

Press assistant
Aurélia Adloff
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
aadloff@artcurial.com

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

ARTCURIAL