



Arnaud Oliveux adjudicating the Lotus Bleu drawing by Hergé (lot #18) at 3 175 400 € / 3 842 234 \$ including fees during «The World of Hergé, Tintin's creator» auction, on January 14th, 2021
WORLD RECORD FOR AN ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY HERGÉ AT AUCTION
WORLD RECORD FOR AN ORIGINAL COMIC STRIPS ARTWORK AT AUCTION

PRESS RELEASE - NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE LOTUS BLEU BY HERGÉ
SALE RESULTS OF JANUARY 14TH, 2021 IN PARIS

Artcurial beats the world record for an original comic book board with the *Lotus Bleu*! On Thursday 14 January, Artcurial offered this exceptional work for auction: the illustration project by Hergé for the cover of the original edition of the 1936 *Lotus Bleu* album. The work was sold for €3.2 M / \$3.8 M including costs, also becoming Hergé's new world record.



PARIS - On Thursday 14 January, under the hammer of Arnaud Oliveux, Artcurial organised two sales sessions dedicated to comic strips. At 2.15 pm, the session dedicated to «The World of Hergé, Tintin's creator » began, presenting more than 100 artworks.

The long-awaited lot was lot #18, an exceptional work, never before seen on the art market: the illustration project by Hergé for the cover of the original edition of the 1936 *Lotus Bleu* album. The tension was at its height in the room, on the internet or on the phone at the time of this historic auction.

After a bidding battle between three clients by telephone, this highly coveted masterpiece finally flew away at €3,175,400 / \$3,842,234 fees included, acquired by a private collector. The *Lotus Bleu* thus sets a new world record for a work by Hergé sold at auction, but also a new world record for an original comic strip work sold at auction, all artists combined.

The leader in this field, Artcurial currently holds eight of the top ten auction prices for work by Hergé, including the previous world record price for a comic strip drawing by any artist, achieved on 24 May 2014 for the inside cover pages of a Tintin album (2.6M€ / 3.6M\$).

This initial cover design for *Le Lotus Bleu*, Tintin's fifth adventure and the album that marked a turning point in Hergé's career, is undoubtedly one of the most evocative covers of any of the young reporter's adventures. After becoming friends with Tchang Tchang-Jen, the only real person other than Al Capone to be incorporated into the adventures of Tintin, Hergé's style changed, becoming more assured.

«Thanks to its unique characteristics, this masterpiece of the 9th art deserves this world record and confirms the excellent health of the Comic Strip market. »

**Eric Leroy, expert
Comic Strips, Artcurial**



Lot n°18:
HERGÉ (Georges Remi dit)
Les Aventures de Tintin reporter en Extrême-Orient
Le Lotus Bleu
India ink, watercolour and gouache on paper for the
initial cover of the album The Blue Lotus published
in 1936.
The publisher had to refuse this cover as it was
too expensive to print at the time. This is a unique
work.
34 x 34 cm
Sold 3 175 400 € / 3 842 234 \$ fees included

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ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house, Artcurial confirmed its leading position in 2020 on the international art market scene. With three sale venues (Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong Kong), Artcurial achieved an overall sales total of 149,2 M€ in 2020.

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.

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