



**AGUTTES**  
MAISON DE VENTES AUX ENCHÈRES

## **SKELETON OF A NEW SPECIES OF CARNIVOROUS DINOSAUR TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT AGUTTES**

ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE EIFFEL TOWER

**SALE: 6 P.M., MONDAY 4 JUNE 2018**



**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**  
Lyon-Brotteaux  
13 bis, place Jules Ferry  
69006 Lyon  
**15 March-18 May 2018**

Salon Gustave Eiffel  
1st floor, Eiffel Tower  
**2-4 June 2018**

**INQUIRIES**  
Philippine de Clermont-Tonnerre  
clermont-tonnerre@aguttes.com

**EXPERT**  
Eric Mickeler

**PRESS CONTACT** • Sébastien FERNANDES • fernandes@aguttes.com • +33147459305



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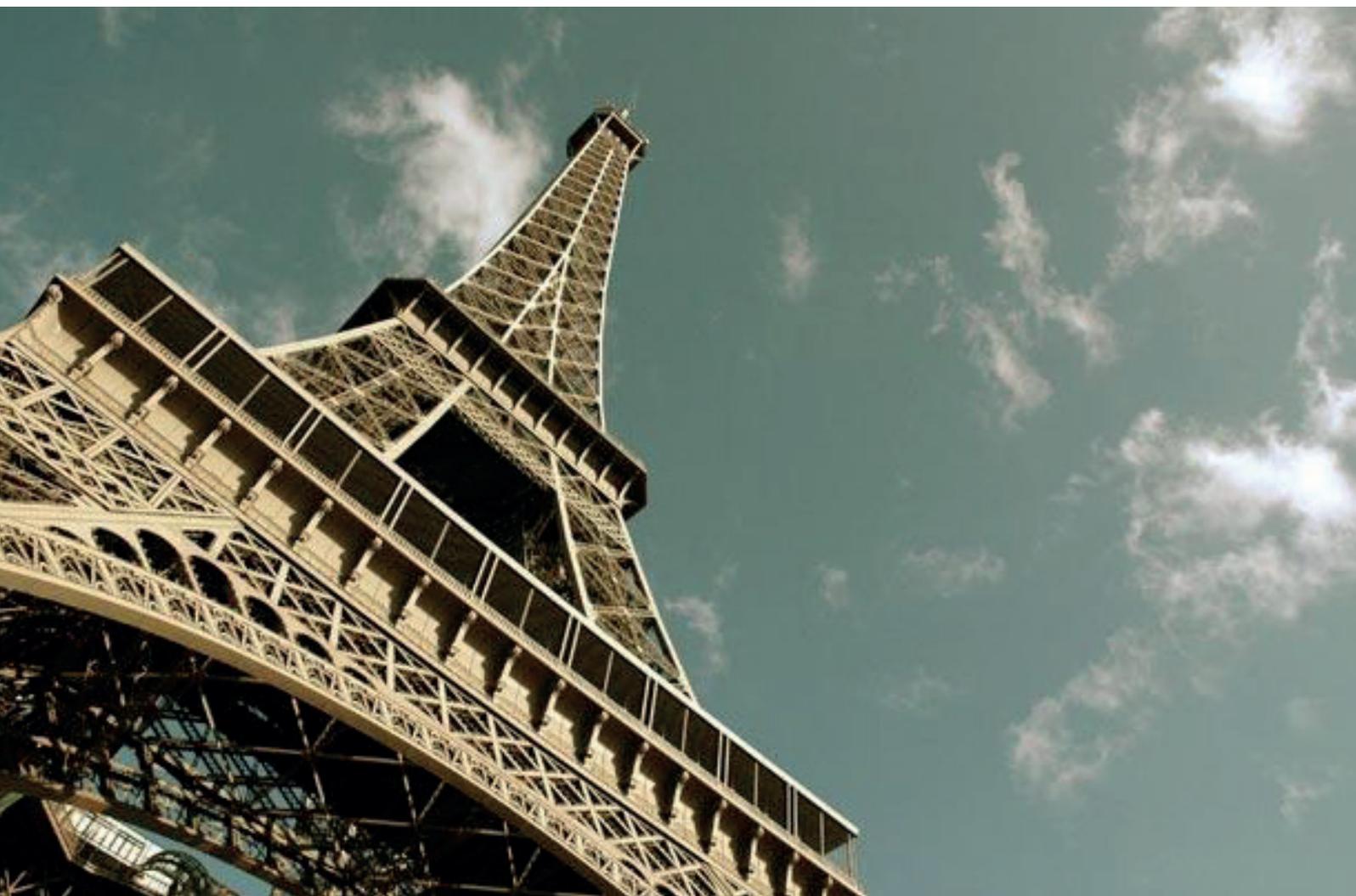


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## **A UNIQUE AND HISTORIC SALE, FOR SEVERAL REASONS**

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- The unique, recently discovered skeleton of an unknown theropod
- Viewing and auction at the Eiffel tower
- A single-lot sale
- First auction sale of such a specimen destined for scientific study
- The possibility for the buyer to be able to name this new species whilst respecting ethic rules.
- An important charity project to help endangered animal species



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## THE EIFFEL TOWER: A VENUE THAT DOES JUSTICE TO THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF THE UNIQUE SKELETON OF AN UNKNOWN THEROPOD

For the viewing and sale of the magnificent skeleton of a new species of carnivorous dinosaur, a venue was needed that would do justice to the significance of the discovery.

Following a public exhibition and viewing at Aguttes in Lyon-Brotteaux, from 15 March to 18 May 2018, the skeleton – 9 metres long, with 70 % of the original bone conserved – will be displayed on the 1st Floor of the Eiffel tower, from 2 to 4 June. It is to be sold at auction on Monday 4 June at 6 p.m. in Salon Gustave Eiffel at the Eiffel tower.

The skeleton was discovered in the course of excavations a carried out in 2013 at a site on the Morrison Forma-

tion, an Upper Jurassic geological sequence laid down 155–148 million years ago that covers much of the western United States and that is one of the world's richest sources of dinosaur fossils. It was only in 2016, when the skeleton was being prepared by European specialists, that scientists noticed that the skeleton presented major anatomical differences from known allosaurs: it has more teeth and a more substantial pelvis with a broad suture between the pubic bones, while the scapulae (shoulder blades) are more elongated and there are also differences in the bones of the skull (see the scientific reports included in the catalogue).



**KIMMERIDGIAN, LATE JURASSIC (157–152 MILLION YEARS AGO)  
MORRISON FORMATION, WYOMING, USA**

Length: 8.70 meters end-to-end, approx. 9 meters laid flat

Height: 2.60 meters

**ESTIMATE: €1,200,000/1,800,000**

© Photo by Aguttes

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## DISCOVERY OF A NEW SPECIES OF DINOSAUR

This spectacular specimen shows unexpected anatomical differences from the other large theropods of the Late Jurassic, opening a new line of palaeontological research all the more promising for the skeleton being 70 % complete.

These differences were observed and reported by palaeontologists Pascal Godefroit, a Belgian specialist known for his work on dinosaurs, and Simone Maganuco, of the Museum of Natural History, Milan.

The skeleton has been mounted on a stainless steel structure capable of supporting the weight of the skull, rather than having to replace it with a lighter, resin replica as is the case in most museum displays. This structure, whose lattice construction is a nod to Gustave Eiffel, also allows for individual bones to be removed for scientific study.

## THE OPINION OF ERIC MICKELER, EXPERT CONSULTANT FOR THE SALE

Eric Mickeler is employed all over the world as a consultant for the valuation of fossils. Fifteen years ago, he revolutionised the auction market for natural history and cabinets of curiosities, bringing major fossils to auction at Christie's, Sotheby's and Aguttes, and he is also an enthusiastic populariser of palaeontology among the general public.

**« The discovery of this specimen probably represents the high point of my career, so significant are its scientific implications »**

**Eric Mickeler**

### Talks – Monday 4 June, Salon Gustave Eiffel, 1st Floor, Eiffel tower

3:30 p.m.: Dr Pascal Godefroit, palaeontologist specialising in the dinosaurs

4:15 p.m.: Dr Antoine Louchart, palaeontologist, specialist in the palaeontology of birds, CNRS Lyon



Pascal Godefroit



Simone Maganuco



Eric Mickeler

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## AN IMPRESSIVE CHARITY PROJECT IN FAVOUR OF PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

The owner of a dinosaur skeleton has decided to partner up with Aguttes and participate in an impressive charity project. The owner is conscious that the scientific discovery of an unknown dinosaur species could encourage the public to be more aware of endangered species around the world. Part of the sale profit will be paid to two associations which fight for the preservation of endangered species: Sea Shepherd and Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Centre.

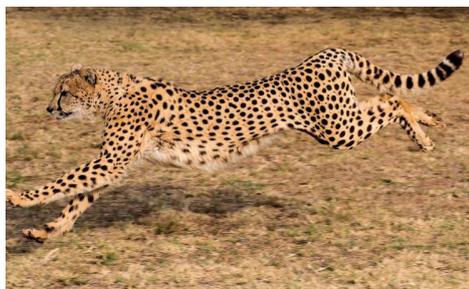
### ABOUT SEA SHEPHERD

Founded in 1977 by Capitan Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd is one of the most prominent NGOs defending ocean wildlife. Sea Shepherd is an international organisation and its aim is to conserve and protect the fragile biodiversity of oceans and ensure international laws concerning conservation and fishing laws are respected.



### ABOUT THE ANN VAN DYK CHEETAH CENTRE

Founded in 1971 in South Africa, the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah centre's objective is to conserve and protect leopards around the world. Since its creation, it has raised over 800 young leopards and has played a crucial role in preserving the species.



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## PREVIOUS SALES OF MAJOR FOSSILS CONDUCTED BY AGUTTES

The skeleton of an Allosaurus dinosaur sold by AGUTTES in Lyon on 10 December 2016 for €1,128,000, to KLEBER ROSSILLON, a business that manages historic sites, among them the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc (replica presentation of the prehistoric art treasures of the Grotte Chauvet), the Musée de Montmartre and the hanging gardens of Marqueyssac in the Dordogne, where this dinosaur skeleton was exhibited.



Complete skeleton of an Allosaurus dinosaur, USA

A mammoth skeleton sold by AGUTTES in Lyon on 16 December 2017 for €548,250 to Strasbourg's SOPREMA, the leaders in waterproofing systems.



Rare complete skeleton of a mammoth, *Mammuthus primigenius*, Late Pleistocene, Siberia, Russia

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Enjoying steady growth since its establishment in Neuilly-sur-Seine more than twenty years ago, while also holding auctions at Drouot in Paris and in Lyon, AGUTTES was ranked as the fourth largest auction house in the French market in 2017, and the leading independent French auction house (without external shareholders). Headed by Claude Aguttes since 1974, six associates, including his daughters Philippine Dupré la Tour and Charlotte Reynier-Aguttes, help manage the company today. The company holds 110 auctions per year with a team of 40, including four authorized auctioneers.

AGUTTES is also a major and most dynamic actor at Drouot in Paris, where it achieved the highest bids in 2015 and in 2017.

Due to its professionalism, the auction house was recently chosen by the French Commercial Court to orchestrate the auctions of Aristophil's tremendous collection of old manuscripts. The year 2017 was marked by the development of off-site sales, such as the one during "Les Grandes Heures Automobiles" at the Linas-Montlhéry motor circuit, or those held in the Arturo López private mansion in Neuilly-sur-Seine. Furthermore, in Lyon, significant renovations of the auction saleroom in the former train station of Brotteaux have just been completed which will allow new events to be created.