

# CLASSIC DRIVER



## Artcurial at the Le Mans Classic, 9 July 2010 – Preview

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**The headlining McLaren F1 certainly puts the 'Art' into Artcurial next collectors' car sale. It's the 1995 13th-place at Le Mans 24 Hours car decorated by Pop Art exponent César.**

Auctioneer **Hervé Poulain** was one of the instigators behind **BMW's 'Art Car'** programme. An enthusiastic amateur driver at **Le Mans**, he co-drove priceless 'moving canvases' by **Alexander Calder** (1975), **Frank Stella** (1976), **Roy Lichtenstein** (1977) and **Andy Warhol** (1979). These were 'official' **BMW Art Cars** but, when the works racing programme wound down, the Frenchman continued the tradition independently, with a **Venturi 600 LM** decorated by **Arman** (1994), the **McLaren F1 GTR** painted by **César** in 1995 and a **Porsche GT2** by **Wolinski** in 1998.

The steel-grey F1 is covered in images of – wait for it – **Poulain's** motor sport trophies 'compressed' by **César** into blocks of scrap metal. As the artist put it: "I have compressed your vanity but increased your glory." Quite – give Sale Director **Matthieu Lamoure** a call for an idea on price. I'm no expert, but I think it's going to be expensive...



The other entries in a 60-car auction are impressive. Starting with the very French **1976 Alpine A110 1300 VC** (32,000 - 37,000 euros and No Reserve), the catalogue oozes quality. **Lamborghini Miura SV**, anyone? Yes, it's a **1972 P400**, estimated at 500,000 - 600,000 euros. There's also a **1989 Countach** (90,000 - 120,000 euros) and a **1967 400GT** (120,000 - 140,000 euros).

Arch-rival **Ferrari** is represented by eight cars, the pick of which must be the superb silver **1967 275 GTB/4**, competitively estimated at 750,000 - 850,000 euros. There's also a **1989 F40** (230,000 - 260,000 euros) and one of my favourites, a **glassfibre-bodied 1976 308 GTB** for 45,000 - 60,000 euros. My, haven't they gone up?



Other '**Classic Driver**' cars include the **1964 AC Cobra 289 Mk II** (340,000 - 380,000 euros and a wonderfully classy machine *sans* roll-cage, side pipes, big wheelarches or metallic paintwork) and a **1978 Porsche 935**. The latter (450,000 - 550,000 euros) is an **ex-Interscope IMSA car** which had seen action in 1979 in **World Championship for Makes** races as well as domestic IMSA rounds - the best finished being in the latter, a 2nd in the **Daytona 250 Miles**, and pole position at **Atlanta**.

**Porsche** is also represented by a **1962 356 Carrera 2/GS 2000** for 160,000 - 200,000 euros and a pale yellow **1973 911 Carrera RS 2.7 Sport** at 130,000 - 170,000 euros. For those after a British classic, the catalogue features several **Astons** (we like the LHD **1960 Aston Martin DB4 Series I** for 180,000 - 220,000 euros) and just one **Jaguar**: a **1962 Mk 2 3.8** for 30,000 - 40,000 euros. It is a French sale, after all.



Prior to the motor cars, **Artcurial** has assembled 80 lots of **automobilia** including several mascots by **René Lalique** and a variety of original **Le Mans 24 Hours** posters such as a **1964** example estimated at 150 - 200 euros.

It looks a superb sale - if the reserves are realistic, and can be met, it might well spring some surprises.

The **Artcurial Le Mans Classic Auction** takes place on **Friday, 9 July** at 17:00.

You can see a full lotlist [HERE](#).

For further information, see [www.artcurial.com](http://www.artcurial.com), or email **Matthieu Lamoure**.

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