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PRESS RELEASE -

MICHAEL JACKSON'S FIRST FEDORA
AND T-BONE WALKER'S FOUND GUITAR
UP FOR AUCTION

AUCTION SALE -

SEPTEMBER 2023, IN PARIS

lemon auction



In September 2023, Artpèges will partner with Lemon Auction to present a unique auction, featuring several iconic objects from music history. Fans will have the opportunity to bid on Michael Jackson's first fedora worn during Motown's 25th anniversary, as well as the found guitar of legendary bluesman T-bone Walker.

In addition to these exceptional collector's items, the auction will also offer numerous music memorabilia items, paying tribute to the history of music. Enthusiasts will have the opportunity to acquire a pair of loafers signed by Michael Jackson, as well as an impressive collection honoring the 60-year career of The Rolling Stones. This auction is open to all music lovers, whether they are amateurs or seasoned collectors.

Michael Jackson's fedora has become a fashion icon and an emblematic symbol of the artist's career. He wore this black wide-brimmed hat during numerous live performances, public appearances, and music videos, helping to popularize the style.

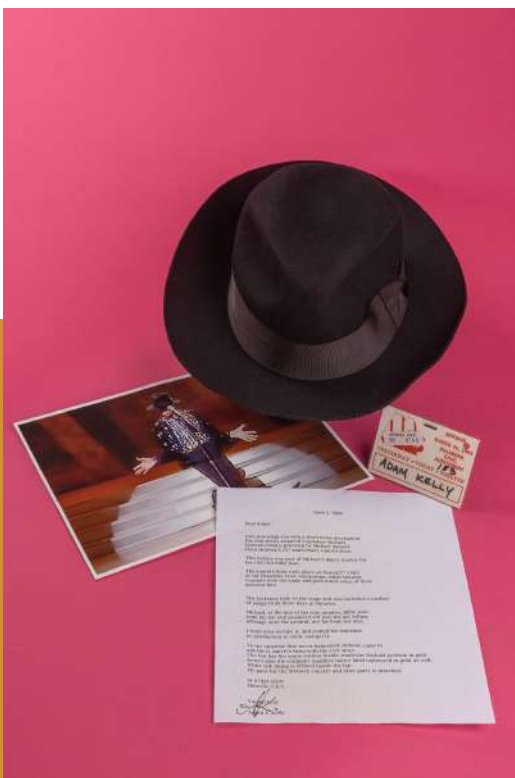
Originally used in the 1920s, this accessory is often associated with the fashion style of the 1950s and 60s and was worn by many jazz and blues artists. Michael Jackson adopted the fedora as an integral part of his personal style, often paired with a leather jacket, tight pants, or shiny shoes. During live performances, Jackson would often use his fedora as an accessory, holding it on his head while performing complex dance moves. The hat became a symbol of the artist's unique personality and remarkable talent for dance.

Jackson's performance on March 25, 1983, is considered one of the most memorable moments of his career, and the hat he wore has become a significant moment in music history. Appearing on television in front of millions of viewers, Jackson performed an electrifying version of his hit song "Billie Jean" and did his famous moonwalk for the first time live on stage.

A powerful reminder of Motown's musical legacy and Jackson's cultural impact on the world, the 25th anniversary fedora is a rare and exceptional item for Michael Jackson fans and music memorabilia collectors.

The next day I called my management office and said, 'Please order me a spy's hat, like a cool fedora something that a secret agent would wear. I wanted something sinister and special, a real slouchy kind of hat. I still didn't have a very good idea of what I was going to do with 'Billie Jean'.

Michael Jackson, Moonwalk, p. 209.



« The ES-5N has inspired many musicians such as Chuck Berry, Johnny Winter, and Jimi Hendrix. »

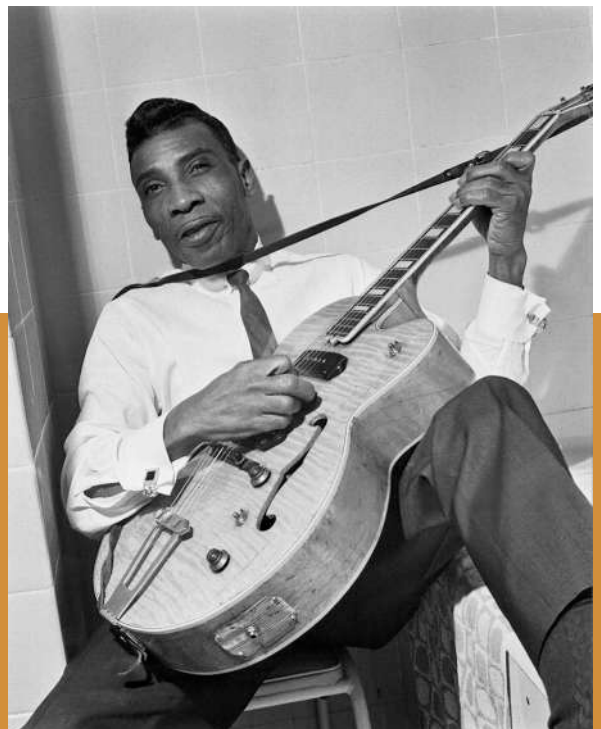
After showcasing Noel Gallagher's famous broken ES-355 at the Rock en Seine festival, Artpèges gallery has once again been entrusted, along with Lemon Auction, with a legendary piece of music history: T-Bone Walker's ES-5N, the bluesman who invented the "lead guitar" which inspired many musicians such as Chuck Berry, Johnny Winter, and Jimi Hendrix.

Produced in only 22 copies in 1949, this guitar is the first to be equipped with three P90 pickups, each connected to an independent volume and regulated by a general tone. This unprecedented configuration at the time, now rare, contributes to the artist's signature sound. This meeting between T-Bone Walker and this new instrument marked a major turning point in the evolution of the blues, with the perfect combination of what would become rock 'n' roll.

The musician used this guitar during the 1950s and 1960s, perfecting his stage performance and seductive image. His nonchalant poses and acrobatic guitar playing (behind his head, upside down, etc.) left a lasting impression. T-Bone Walker paved the way for rock by blending blues and jazz in the Hot Clubs where he performed, particularly in France.

During one of his tours, this beautiful ES-5 disappeared without explanation. Forty years later, the guitar was identified as T-Bone's, with the current owner not realizing that he had purchased one of the 22 ES-5Ns made in 1949. However, after cataloging all the similarities in the wood patterns, the pearl inlays on the fretboard, and other distinctive features such as repairs and modifications, the verdict was in: it was indeed the missing guitar!

After possibly passing through several owners, this exceptional guitar finally regained its official identity in 2016 thanks to the expertise of François Charles, then a member of the national company of experts, who attested to its "unmistakable ownership".



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ABOUT ARTPÈGES GALLERY

Artpèges is a Paris-based company specialized in the music industry, including musical instruments, particularly guitars, memorabilia (concert tickets, posters, gold records...), and professional audio equipment, such as studio microphones and consoles.

ABOUT LEMON AUCTION

Lemon Auction is an auction house that values your objects and collections under the hammer of the auctioneer since 1691.

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