

MUSÉES DE LA VILLE DE STRASBOURG

Strasbourg, January 10, 2023

Press Release

**A "National Treasure" at the Œuvre Notre-Dame Museum:
acquisition of an exceptional architectural drawing
of the Spire of Strasbourg Cathedral**

In 2022, a striking medieval drawing on parchment representing the High Tower of Strasbourg Cathedral joined the Arts of the Middle Ages collections of Strasbourg's Œuvre Notre-Dame Museum. Recognised as a "National Treasure," this drawing will be presented to the public in the Museum's Prints and Drawings Room, from January 21 to April 23, 2023.

Attributed to the Cathedral Architect Johannes Hültz and executed around 1419, the drawing is remarkable for the high quality of its execution and its depiction of part of the sculptural programme. The historical significance of the drawing is inestimable. It is indeed the first known drawing to represent precisely the already built Octagon, and especially the first of Hültz's projects for the Spire, a project which proves to be very different from the one ultimately executed.

This drawing was placed on the art market in 2018 by a private owner who had acquired it in Paris in 1994. The official decision to refuse an export certificate for it was taken in August 2018, thus giving it "National Treasure" status. French law recognises as national treasure cultural properties whose heritage importance justifies special status and protection.

The drawing will be presented to the public from January 21 to April 23, 2023 in the Prints and Drawings Room of the Œuvre Notre-Dame Museum. For conservation reasons, this room is accessible on Saturdays and Sundays only, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The adjacent Interpretation Room remains accessible to the public during the Museum's opening hours.

The acquisition has been made possible under article 238b 0A of the French General Tax Code, allowing financing by the exceptional patronage of the Crédit Mutuel Bank and the Society of the Friends of Strasbourg Cathedral, as well as the combined support of the French Ministry of Culture and the City of Strasbourg. The drawing has been restored by the Œuvre Notre-Dame Cathedral Guild.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Musée de l'Œuvre Notre-Dame / Arts du Moyen Âge
3, Place du Château, Strasbourg

Press Kit and visuals downloadable at:

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