

For Immediate Release

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**FINE AND RARE WATCHES AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK
ON DECEMBER 15**

**Patek Philippe Wristwatches To Lead Sale Of Over 380
Extraordinary Timepieces**



Patek Philippe
*An Historically Important
Minute Repeating Pocket Watch*
Estimate: \$75,000-120,000



Patek Philippe Reference 5016
*An Extremely Rare and Important Minute
Repeating Tourbillon Wristwatch*
Estimate: \$350,000-550,000



Cartier
*An 18K Gold, Diamond, Rock Crystal
and Onyx "Mystery Clock"*
Estimate: \$60,000-80,000

New York – Following recent blockbuster Fall sales of fine and rare watches in Dubai, Geneva and Hong Kong, Christie's New York is delighted to present a selection of over 380 fine and rare timepieces for auction on Tuesday, December 15. Vintage and modern wristwatches from all of the major manufacturers are represented, as well as pocket watches, fine ladies watches, and rare signed clocks. Prices begin at \$700 and range upwards to \$350,000 for the most important signed timepieces. The total sale is expected to achieve in excess of \$4 million.

Sam Hines, Head of Watches at Christie's New York comments: *"As our recent sales have demonstrated, demand for high-quality timepieces continues to expand globally, as we welcome new collectors into this exciting field. For our final auction of Important Watches this fall season, we have assembled a sale that is bursting with exceptional items from the top manufacturers, including Patek Philippe, A. Lange & Söhne, Audemars Piguet, Girard-Perregaux, Cartier, Rolex, and Franck Muller to name but a few. Opportunities to acquire investment-quality pieces abound, led by several rare and important examples not likely to be seen on the market again for some time."*

RARE MINUTE-REPEATING WATCHES

Among the top lots of the sale is a selection of superb Patek Philippe minute repeating wristwatches - a highly-coveted complication among devoted collectors of fine wristwatches. Initially designed in the 17th century as a means of reading a watch without aid of light, minute repeaters contain a mechanism that chimes at varying pitches to indicate the hour, half and quarter hour, and minute. The extremely rare and highly important **Patek Philippe reference 5016**, a platinum minute repeating tourbillon wristwatch, is the second most complicated wristwatch ever produced by the firm (pictured page one, center; estimate: \$350,000-550,000). Manufactured in 1994, the watch also features a perpetual calendar, retrograde date, and moon phases.



1927 Audemars Piguet
retailed by Cartier

Other great rarities among minute-repeating watches include the **Patek Philippe reference 5074**, a signed 18k gold minute repeating watch with an oversized face, perpetual calendar and moon phases, manufactured *circa* 2003 (estimate: \$280,000-350,000), and the **Patek Philippe Reference 5078**, a signed platinum minute repeating watch with a handsome enamel dial. Manufactured *circa* 2007, the watch comes with its original box and certificate and a spare back (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). Also featured is an elegant 1927 wristwatch that was manufactured by **Audemars Piguet** but retailed by **Cartier** (pictured at left; estimate: \$120,000-180,000). This outstanding watch is one of only 35 minute repeating watches produced by the venerable house between 1906 and the late 1920s, and has remained in the same private collection for the last 18 years.

SIGNED WATCHES FROM TOP MANUFACTURERS

Leading the broad selection of over 200 modern signed watches from top houses is a sleek platinum **Girard-Perregaux reference 9971** from *circa* 2005, a fine and rare oversized tourbillon hour striking watch with a pink golden bridge visible through the aperture (estimate: \$100,000-150,000); a curved tonneau-shaped **Richard Mille reference RM002** from *circa* 2002, a 18k pink gold tourbillon watch with a skeletonized dial (estimate: \$80,000-120,000); and a very rare **Franck Muller reference RM QP CR**, the “Conquistador” model in 18k white gold with multiple complications, including minute repeating mechanism, perpetual calendar, split seconds, moon phases, and subsidiary dials for day, date, pulsation and telemeter scales (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).



Patek Philippe ref. 3970

Reflecting the continued demand for top-quality wristwatches by Patek Philippe, Christie’s is also pleased to offer a **Patek Philippe reference 3970** with the rare and highly sought-after black dial and white gold baton numerals (pictured above, right; estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Manufactured in

2002, this magnificent watch is presented in the original presentation box with spare case back and with two certificates confirming the originality of the black dial.

VINTAGE POCKET WATCHES

Pocket watches continue to fascinate connoisseurs who appreciate this pleasing form as an emblem of horological craftsmanship. Over 50 pocket watches are included in the upcoming sale, including the 18k pink gold **Patek Philippe pocket watch** originally owned by the late Alfred G. Stein, a board member and head of Patek Philippe's New York branch until 1934. The engraved watch with multiple complications (pictured page one, left; estimate: \$75,000-120,000) was manufactured in 1895 and gifted to Mr. Stein in celebration of the company's change in status to a joint stock company in 1901 – a legendary moment in the company's long history.



*Thomas Tompion pocketwatch,
circa 1699*

One of the earliest and most historically significant examples of the pocket watch form in the sale is a silver pair case verge watch from *circa* 1699 signed by **Thomas Tompion** (1639-1713), an innovative and highly accomplished watchmaker known as the “Father of English Clock Making” (pictured at left; estimate: \$4,000-6,000). Never before offered at auction, this exceedingly rare example was previously owned by the prominent watch collector and late Sears, Roebuck & Co. executive Leopold Metzenburg and has been featured in the collection of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois.

Other rare and important timepieces consigned by the museum include antique pocket watches signed by the 19th century English watchmakers John Torbock, Edward Prior, and William Ilbury (estimates range: \$4,000-12,000) and an unusual Swiss timepiece in the form of a musical harp from *circa* 1810 that is accented with gold, pearls, diamonds and enameled decorative motifs (pictured at right; estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



LADIES WATCHES AND HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS



Just in time for gift-giving season, the upcoming sale features a superb array of ladies luxury watches from Cartier, Chopard, Graff, and Harry Winston, among others. Leading the group is an impressive signed wristwatch by **De Grisogono** from *circa* 2006 that is accented with a silvered dial and diamond encrusted frame, dial, and hinges (pictured at left; estimate: \$35,000-55,000).

Among the fine bracelet watches for women is a stunning 18K white gold and diamond watch by **Graff** made *circa* 2000, with a dial and bracelet set entirely in diamond baguettes and highlighted by clusters of heart-shaped diamonds (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). Among the vintage items is an elegant ladies **Cartier** wristwatch from 1925 that features a slim rectangular case and black cord bracelet accented with diamonds (estimate: \$15,000-20,000).

Among the many items in the sale well-suited for lavish gift-giving is an exquisite 18k gold, diamond, rock crystal, and onyx **“Mystery Clock”** by **Cartier** – the ultimate in design and innovation. The clock is powered by gears that are ingeniously hidden in the frame of the case, so that its diamond-set hands appear to “float” with no apparent anchor (pictured page one, right; estimate: \$60,000-80,000). A signed **Breitling** limited-edition “Orbiter 3” watch is a perfect gift for pilots, off-piste skiers, and adventurers because it is equipped with a transmitter to help locate the wearer in an emergency. Introduced in 1999 to commemorate the new world record set for a non-stop, around-the world balloon flight by Bertrand Piccards and Brian Jones, this model in 18k white gold is number 8 of only 20 produced by Breitling (estimate: \$15,000-20,000).

*The complete e-catalogue for this sale is available online at
<http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?saleid=22159&CID=5447002212b>
and via the Christie’s app for the iPhone, available at www.christies.com/on-the-go*

Auctions:

Important Watches

December 15, 2009 at 10am & 2pm

Viewing:

New York - Christie’s Rockefeller Center Galleries

December 11-14, 2009

About Christie’s

Christie’s, the world’s leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie’s offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie’s has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie’s has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

