

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO CAP
BLOCKBUSTER SPRING SEASON OF WATCH SALES
WITH 400-LOT AUCTION ON JUNE 15**

**RARE AND IMPORTANT PATEK PHILIPPE
CHRONOGRAPH WRISTWATCH TO LEAD THE SALE WITH AN
ESTIMATE OF UP TO US\$ 1 MILLION**



PATEK PHILIPPE Reference 2499
In 18k gold, manufactured in 1960
Estimate: \$600,000-1,000,000

Public Exhibition: June 11 to 14, 2011

Auction: June 14, 2011 at 10am & 2:30pm

New York - Following on the heels of a record-breaking US\$ 21.1 million sale of fine and rare watches in Hong Kong last week, Christie's New York is pleased to announce further highlights of its upcoming sale of *Important Watches* on June 15 in New York. This highly anticipated spring auction features over 400 individual timepieces, including investment-quality vintage and modern wristwatches, antique pocket watches, sports watches, ladies' jewelry watches, and desk clocks. The day-long auction, which begins public previews on June 11, is expected to realize in excess of US\$ 5.5 million.

The top lot of the sale is the iconic **Patek Philippe Reference 2499** in 18k gold (pictured page one). Manufactured in 1960, this rare perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch is one of the greatest models produced by the venerable firm and continues to be the standard by which other watch-makers measure their designs. Only 349 watches in this reference were produced between 1950 and 1985, and the upcoming sale marks the first time in recent memory that a watch of this caliber has been offered on the American auction market. Collector demand for rare Patek Philippe timepieces has escalated in recent seasons, as demonstrated by the exceptional prices achieved for rare Patek Philippe models at Christie's salerooms in Geneva and Hong Kong earlier this season. Maintained in near-original condition and with its signature perfectly raised and intact, the exceptional example to be offered in New York on June 15 is conservatively estimated at \$600,000-1,000,000.

IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

The upcoming sale features a wealth of prominent private estate collections of wristwatches that have been assembled with great care and passion by their late owners. Christie's previously announced a rediscovered collection of rare clock watches and pocket watches owned by James Ward Packard, the American auto manufacturer and inventor. Packard was among the first of the great watch collectors to work directly with **Patek Philippe** and **Vacheron Constantin**, the world's most exclusive watch manufacturers, in his quest to build an exquisite personal collection of highly complicated, custom-designed timepieces. These extraordinary watches remain in pristine condition, having been stored away in a bank vault for the last 60 years. They will be unveiled for the first time to the public on June 11, and offered as a key highlight of the upcoming sale ([see dedicated press release](#)).



Additional private collections and highlights include:



The Kronos Collection

This exceptional collection of 70 individual timepieces spans the history of horology from the early 17th century to circa 1900. Almost every item in the collection displays a different complication mastered by the watchmaker's art, from a skeletonized sonnerie clockwatch made by **Markwick Markham** circa 1770 (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) to a triple-bridge tourbillon pocket chronometer made by **Girard-Perregaux** circa 1880 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). Among the many fine enameled timepieces in the collection is a group of automaton watches with exquisitely detailed faces and backs, including a rare 18k gold, enamel and pearl-set lyre form musical watch from circa 1820 (estimate: \$50,000-70,000; pictured at left).



Property of An Important Texas Private Collector

This distinguished collection of antique and modern watches was assembled by a husband-and-wife team of devoted watch enthusiasts over a period of 40 years. It features 50 Patek Philippe timepieces, from 19th century hunter case and pocket watches to early 20th century dress watches and delicate ladies jewelry watches. Rarities are in abundance in this collection, including the only known **Patek Philippe** dress watch decorated on the face and back with scenes of Lake Geneva in cloisonné enamel (estimate: \$40,000-60,000; pictured at left). The upcoming sale marks the first time this exquisite example of Patek Philippe history has ever been offered at auction.



The G. Garvin Brown III Watch Collection, Part III

The late racing enthusiast G. Garvin Brown III, great-grandson of the founder of Kentucky distiller Brown-Forman Corporation, was introduced to the world of chronograph watches by Paul Newman himself. As owner and manager of several racing teams in the Can Am, Formula Atlantic and Formula Ford series, he developed a natural affinity for the sleek craftsmanship and style of modern sports watches. Over the years he built a superb collection of nautical and racing watches by **Rolex, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Vacheron Constantin, and Panerai**, among others. A key highlight of this third and final installment of his vast collection is a Vacheron Constantin Malte model, a rare platinum wristwatch with a skeletonized tourbillon carriage visible through the sapphire crystal (estimate: \$60,000-90,000; pictured at left).








Property from the Estate of Buck A. Mickel

A passionate collector, the late Buck Mickel approached his acquisition of modern watches with the same enthusiasm and connoisseurship that guided his purchases of fine art and photography. This season, Christie's is honored to offer 24 watches from Mickel's personal collection, including many unusual **Patek Philippe** examples that have never been seen at auction. Among the highlights are two rare and highly collectible Patek Philippe "Richochet" model dress watches (estimates: \$4,000-6,000) and the hugely popular **Rolex Reference 6239** in stainless steel, known as the Paul Newman Model (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

Top Watches from the Leading Manufacturers

Antique and modern watches created by world-renowned watchmakers such as **A. Lange & Söhne, Audemars Piguet, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Panerai, Piaget, Rolex, Vacheron Constantin**, and the legendary **Patek Philippe** continue to command strong prices at Christie's auctions around the world. Rare and limited-edition references from these top firms remain highly sought-after among both collectors and dealers – and also very likely to retain or increase in value over the long term. Among the many individual highlights of the upcoming sale are:

	<p>Piaget. An extremely rare 18k gold and diamond “Aura” bracelet watch Manufactured in 1990, this stunning lady’s watch is completely encrusted in baguette- and emerald-cut diamonds, for a total weight of 55 carats.</p>	<p>Estimate: \$100,000-150,000</p>
	<p>Patek Philippe. A rare 18k gold Reference 1518 Patek Philippe produced the Reference 1518 from 1941 until approximately 1954. This treasured and collectible timepiece was the first perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch to be manufactured in a series by any firm in the world. Only 281 examples of this renowned wristwatch were made in total.</p>	<p>Estimate: \$200,000-300,000</p>
	<p>Cartier. An Art-Deco Petite Sonnerie Desk Clock More than a dozen rare desk clocks are featured in the upcoming sale, including this signed Cartier clock crafted in 18k gold, diamond and nephrite in 1925. With many elegant details, including a stylized diamond-set monogram and lady’s shoe, this petite desk accessory is among the sale’s many decorative treasures.</p>	<p>Estimate: \$150,000-250,000</p>
	<p>A Lange & Söhne. A Limited-Edition Oversized “Lange 1” Model Tourbillon Watch Manufactured circa 2000, this handsome dress watch in 18k pink gold is one of only 250 examples made, and features a visible one-minute tourbillon carriage on the face.</p>	<p>Estimate: \$60,000-90,000</p>

	<p>Patek Philippe. A unique pocket watch with an enameled scene in miniature.</p> <p>This one-of-a-kind timepiece was manufactured in 1975, during the period when Patek Philippe re-launched its production of watches with enamel miniatures. Only a handful of these masterpieces were created in collaboration with famous artists such as Suzanne Rohr or J.L. Peter. This particular watch features a riding party crossing a stream against a broad green landscape – a scene fashioned after the 17th century Dutch painter Salomon van Ruysdael.</p>	<p>Estimate: \$50,000-80,000</p>
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*The complete e-catalogue for this sale is available online at
<http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?saleid=23060>*

Auction: *Important Watches*
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

June 15 at 10am & 2:30pm
June 11-14, 10am – 6pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

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Images available on request

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