

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG WATCHES SALE SPOTLIGHTS AN
EXTREMELY RARE SET OF PATEK PHILIPPE WRISTWATCHES**

Important Watches

7 July 2003

Hong Kong – The Important Watches sale at Christie's Hong Kong on 7 July will be offering for the first time a very rare set of four wristwatches with ten-day power reserve by Patek Philippe. Highlights include an exceptional collection of unique jeweled watches from various internationally renowned watchmakers and mechanically intricate wristwatches by Patek Philippe and Vacheron & Constantin amongst others. The sale will also feature a highly varied selection of timepieces from famous jewellery houses and watchmakers such as Cartier, Bulgari, Graff and Franck Muller.

*A Very Rare Set of Four Rectangular Wristwatches with Ten-Day Power Reserve
by Patek Philippe*

Patek Philippe created this model to celebrate the year 2000 and it is the first timepiece to feature a 10-day power reserve. Only 3000 pieces were produced: 1,500 in yellow gold, 750 in pink gold, 450 in white gold and 300 in platinum. The exclusivity of this watch is guaranteed as the case production tools will never be used again. Since its launch in 2000, no more than a dozen of this model have been sold in auctions and never before has a set of four watches in platinum, yellow, pink and white gold been offered at auction together. Christie's is most privileged to be the first auction house to include such a prestigious set of watches in Hong Kong (Estimate: HK\$800,000-1,000,000/ US\$105,000-130,000).

Jeweled Watches

Many famous watchmakers and jewellery houses combine the beauty of diamonds and gemstones with technical sophistication and excellent craftsmanship to create timepieces that showcase creative designs and the dazzling magnificence of the stones. An elegant lady's platinum and diamond-set wristwatch from the 1960s by Audemars Piguet has the appearance of a beautifully-set diamond bracelet by hiding the dial under a diamond-set hinged cover (Estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$26,000-38,000). Audemars Piguet continues to create innovative designs using diamonds and gemstones in watches as can be seen in a superb platinum and

diamond-set self-winding skeletonised wristwatch which showcases the heavily engraved and lace-like movement, visible through the transparent case (Estimate: HK\$220,000–280,000/ US\$28,000–35,000). Also from Audemars Piguet is a unique and charming brooch-watch in the form of a teddy bear by the name of “Ours Carlo” (Bear Carlo). Carlo’s head with its sapphire-set nose, eyes and ears conceal the mother-of-pearl dial (Estimate: HK\$240,000–320,000/ US\$30,000–40,000). Another unique piece by Audemars Piguet is a lady’s diamond and emerald-set dual time wristwatch for elegant jet-setters who need to know the time in two places at once (Estimate: HK\$400,000–500,000/ US\$50,000–65,000). The geometrical design and combination of emeralds and diamonds are reminiscent of the elegant jewellery pieces from the Art Deco period of the 1910s to 1930s.

Piaget turns a sportive and utilitarian timepiece into an item of luxury by enhancing a tonneau-shaped chronograph wristwatch with a pale blue mother-of-pearl dial and sapphire and ruby-set bezel, thus blending practicality with pure elegance (Estimate: HK\$360,000–480,000/US\$45,000–60,000). Vacheron & Constantin is famous for its magnificent “Kalla” wristwatches and this rare and striking diamond and ruby-set “Kalla Ravello Tonneau” wristwatch is a variation of the theme. Endowed with a more sportive look, this watch is a statement of opulence with its ruby and diamond-set dial and case and contrasting green dauphine hands (Estimate: HK\$200,000–280,000/ US\$25,000–35,000).

Technical Perfection by Patek Philippe, A. Lange & Sohne, Vacheron & Constantin and Audemars Piguet

A watchmaker’s pride and joy is to manufacture complex timepieces with multiple functions fitted in the limited space of a wristwatch case. Patek Philippe is synonymous with technical superiority and the house is responsible for innovations that shape the history of watchmaking. Apart from the set of four Ten-Day Power Reserve watches, the sale features other equally complex models by Patek Philippe. One is a fine self-winding wristwatch with power reserve and phases of the moon (Estimate: HK\$80,000–100,000/ US\$10,000–13,000). The other is an elegant pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch (Estimate: HK\$220,000–280,000/ US\$28,500–36,000).

A. Lange & Sohne is another watchmaker with a long tradition in complex timepieces as shown in this fine pink gold wristwatch with power reserve and date with a particularly stylish black dial with pink gold Roman numerals (Estimate: HK\$80,000–100,000/ US\$10,000–13,000). Of equal complexity is this Vacheron & Constantin limited edition cushion-shaped jump hour wristwatch with retrograde minutes (Estimate: HK\$75,000–100,000/ US\$9,700–13,000). Yet another highlight is an Audemars Piguet stainless steel self-winding perpetual calendar wristwatch with a contemporary twist in its bright yellow textured dial (Estimate: HK\$80,000–100,000/ US\$10,000–13,000).

Additional highlights include a colourful Franck Muller white gold and enamel tonneau-shaped dual time wristwatch featuring a dial with a polychrome enamelled map of North and South America (Estimate: HK\$80,000–100,000/ US\$10,000–13,000). Wristwatches with automata have been favoured by collectors through the ages. A self-winding five minute repeating wristwatch by Grenier with a couple performing an erotic act on the beach is a humorous example (Estimate: HK\$60,000–80,000/ US\$7,500–10,000). A self-winding hour-striking clock watch by Ulysse Nardin (Estimate: HK\$150,000–200,000/ US\$19,500–25,000) captures the magical atmosphere of large hour-striking clocks featured in public squares of numerous European towns.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

<i>Tokyo</i>	<i>1 – 2 April</i>	<i>AJC Gallery</i>
<i>Taipei</i>	<i>12 – 13 April</i>	<i>Taipei Metro</i>
<i>Tainan</i>	<i>15 April</i>	<i>Robert & Li Art Gallery</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>16 – 17 May</i>	<i>Grand Hyatt Singapore</i>
<i>Beijing</i>	<i>25 – 26 June</i>	<i>New Otani Hotel</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>4 – 7 July</i>	

Auction: Important Watches, 7 July at 4:00pm

More information about Christie's sale of Important Watches can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

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