

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2009

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SINGULAR COLLECTING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN MAY IMPORTANT WATCHES SALE

- **Examples offered for the FIRST TIME IN ASIA highlight sale**
- **INDEPENDENT watchmakers usher in new chapter in haute horology**

Hong Kong - Committed to offering the best timepieces available in today's market, Christie's May 27 sale of *Important Watches* features an array of highly collectible horological creations that promises to excite and inspire the most discerning collectors. Masterworks from every major manufacturer will be presented, together with historical and interesting pocket watches and clocks. In addition to top examples from the finest names, this sale will present a selection of watches from independent watch makers – *very rare models first in Asia*. These makers represent a new chapter in horology with their astounding technical breakthroughs and their high aesthetic appeal.

GRAND SELECTIONS FROM BLUE-CHIP NAMES LEADING TODAY'S MARKET: PATEK PHILIPPE, ROLEX, VACHERON CONSTANTIN & MORE



Since its founding in 1844, **PATEK PHILIPPE** has been synonymous with the best in horological design and technology. Leading the selection from Patek Philippe in Christie's Hong Kong Spring sale is the **Reference 5078P** (*illustrated left*, estimate: HK\$2-2.8 million/ US\$260,000 – 360,000). **This is only the second example of a reference 5078 to ever appear on the auction market to date**, the first example having been sold at Christie's Geneva in November 2007. The successor of the legendary Reference 3979

which was in production from 1989 to 1998, the manufacture of the Ref. 5078 began in 2005 and it is available exclusively in platinum with white enamel dial or the new black lacquered dial. With its superb acoustic quality, this connoisseur's timepiece stands out among the sale's carefully curated selection of strikeworks, a complication deemed to be the most lyrical in haute horlogerie.

An additional top example from Patek Philippe is the **Reference 5350R, Spiromax** (estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000 / US\$46,000-58,000). Launched in 2006, the Reference 5350 is **the second limited edition of the "Advanced Research" series** from Patek Philippe and features a totally new type of balance spring made of Silinvar, a revolutionary material based on monocrystalline silicon that allows for the spring to be three times thinner than those crafted with conventional materials.

A further Patek highlight is the **Reference 5004P** (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$1,600,000-2,000,000/ US\$200,000–260,000). Launched in 1994, the reference 5004 split seconds chronograph remains to this day **the most complicated model in Patek Philippe's**



stable of stopwatches. Its movement consists of no fewer than 407 hand-finished parts.



ROLEX connoisseurs will not be disappointed with the fine collection of sports models offered in this sale. Among the offerings is the **Cosmograph Daytona “Paul Newman” reference 6263 and 6241** (*illustrated left*, estimate: HK\$320,000-400,000/US\$40,000-52,000 and HK\$350,000-470,000/ US\$45,000-61,000, respectively). The much sought-after **Submariner reference 5513** with military configurations (estimate: HK\$300,000-500,000/US\$39,000-65,000), as well as an **extremely well-preserved Explorer reference 6350 with original box, papers and sales bill from 1953** (estimate: HK\$80,000-120,000/US\$11,000-15,000) will also be among the most sought-after examples from Rolex this season.

From **VACHERON CONSTANTIN** comes the exquisite **Malte Perpetual Calendar Minute Repeater**, a timeless classic with deep roots in traditional watch-making in its design and mechanism (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$1.1-1.6 million/ US\$142,000 – 200,000).



ULYSSE NARDIN is represented with the **Circus Minute Repeater**, a timepiece combining technology inspired by the automaton mechanism commonly found in pocket watches with unexpected theatrical creativity - a circus act ‘performs’ on the black onyx dial when the repeating slide is activated (*illustrated left*, estimate: HK\$1-1.5 million / US\$130,000-190,000).

The spirit of master gem-setters is reflected in a sumptuous ensemble of jewelled mechanical timepieces offered, including the beautiful **Baignoire Allongee** by **CARTIER** (estimate: HK\$240,000-400,000/US\$30,000-52,000).

Gifted Independent Watch Makers Introduce a New Chapter in Haute Horology

This sale will also introduce ground-breaking works from today’s most gifted independent watch makers – very rare models, a first for Asia. Representing a new chapter in horology, these timepieces express high visual velocity with astoundingly impressive technical breakthroughs.



URWERK 201 “Black Shark”

The superb and very innovative **URWERK 201** is the result of three long years of research, experimentation, prototyping and testing by a five man team in Geneva (estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,800,000 / US\$130,000 – 230,000). Launched in 2007 with a mission to create “their own path in pushing the boundaries of haute horlogerie ever further,” URWERK has developed a cult following of collectors devoted to the brand’s extremely limited runs of one-of-a-kind complications that are ingenious and original.

Time on the UR-201 is displayed using telescopic minute hands operating through the middle of three orbiting and revolving hour satellites. The hands precisely adjust their length to follow the three vector minute scale. This precision micro-engineering is achieved by means of three

“transporters,” one end of which follows a cam plotting the path of the minute indication, the other controlling the precise length of the minute hand.

Additional features include a variety of gauges including the “Oil Change” gauge, indicates when the watch is due for a service, the “100 Year Plus” gauge which keeps track of the movement’s operation and acts like a ‘life timer,’ and a fine tuning screw that allows the owner to easily and precisely regulate the timing of the watch by +/- 30 seconds per day. Production of the UR-201 ceased in 2008 and was replaced by the UR-202 featuring an innovative new winding system regulated by compressing air utilizing miniature turbines. The UR-201 was available in white gold, pink gold and platinum; **ten examples, including the present watch, were made in PE-CVD platinum as a limited edition with the codename “Black Shark.”**



GREUBEL FORSEY Double Tourbillon 30° Vision

Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey have been working together for nearly 20 years in a relationship founded on their shared technical creativity and quest for perfection. In 1999 they began working on a new generation of tourbillon specifically designed to improve the timekeeping of the mechanical watch. Four years later they unveiled Greubel Forsey and stunned horological aficionados with their innovative Double Tourbillon 30°, a timepiece clearly demonstrating their twin goals of innovation and excellence (estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/US\$200,000-260,000).

The Double Tourbillon 30° is a creation that undertook more than four years of research and development. It features a tourbillon within a tourbillon (dubbed the *‘tourbillon of the third millennium’* by its creators), in such a way that this **new complication permanently compensates the rate of gravity-related errors in all positions, and as such, results in more precise time than a classic tourbillon regardless of position.**

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HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SALE CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE:

<http://cshk.myftp.org/2009/20Christie's/20Hong/20Kong/20Spring/20Auctions/Important/20Watches/>

Auctions:

Important Watches

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 2:30pm

Previews:

Taiwan

Fubon Life Assurance Building

Saturday to Sunday, May 16-17

Hong Kong

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Friday to Wednesday, May 22-27

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 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 600 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 70 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. For more information, please visit www.christies.com.