

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

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**RARE AND UNIQUE TIMEPIECES TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S
HONG KONG SPRING SALE**

Important Watches including a Private Collection

31 May 2007

Hong Kong – The *Important Watches including a Private Collection* sale at Christie's Hong Kong on 31 May offers a superb selection of 470 watches by renowned watchmakers and jewelers such as Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, Rolex, Blancpain, Franck Muller, Jaeger-leCoultre and IWC amongst others. Many of these are extremely rare collectors' pieces and have never before been seen at auction. The sale also features over 75 Patek Philippe wristwatches and a fascinating private collection comprising a wide range of fabulous and complicated contemporary models.

In this Spring auctions series, Christie's Hong Kong will introduce a real-time multi-media auction service Christie's LIVE™, hence becoming the first international auction house in Asia to offer fine art through live online auctions. Christie's LIVE™ enables collectors around the world to bid from their personal computers while enjoying the look, sound and feel of the sale.

Leading the sale is a very important and rare **Blancpain** platinum minute repeating perpetual calendar split seconds chronograph automatic wristwatch with tourbillon and phases of the moon (Lot 2714, estimate: HK\$1,600,000-3,200,000/ US\$200,000-400,000). Produced in 2000, it is the first time that this "1735 Grande Complication" has ever been offered at auction in Asia, and one of only 30 examples produced. Of great rarity and in perfect condition, it is undoubtedly the most complicated watch that Blancpain has ever made in its long and illustrious history.



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Blancpain took six years to develop this model which combines all the functions of six different watches from its "Masterpiece Collection". This watch required 18 months to produce and reputedly only two Swiss watchmakers in the world are trained to manufacture this intricate watch today, making it extremely sought-after in the market.

Another true rarity is a very important and unique **Franck Muller** platinum and diamond-set double dial, dual time zone and dual minute repeating wristwatch, of the "Master Mystery" Model, No.1, circa 1995 (Lot 2713, estimate: HK\$800,000-1,200,000/ US\$100,000-150,000). This is the one and only example of this model ever produced, and its ground-breaking appearance at auction is expected to draw tremendous interest. On one side is the skeletonised dial with Roman numerals on engine-turned silvered chapter ring. On the reverse is the second dial exquisitely adorned with diamonds and sapphire-set baton numerals. The milled band is set with two minute-repeating slides and two diamond-set winding crowns.



A gem in the sale is a magnificent 18k white gold and diamond-set automatic dual time zone and world time wristwatch by **Jaeger-LeCoultre**, circa 2005 (Lot 2638, estimate: HK\$1,200,000 -1,600,000/ US\$150,000-200,000). Never previously been seen at auction, this "Master Geographique" is exceptional in combining the beauty of diamonds with technical sophistication and excellent craftsmanship. Its

unique features include two mother-of-pearl-set subsidiary dials for date and second time zone; and a fan-shaped sector also set with mother-of-pearl for power reserve. An aperture with revolving indication shows the times of various cities in the world. The glamour of this watch is further enhanced by its glittering bracelet fully set with baguette and square-cut diamonds.

Another prized offering is a **Richard Mille** titanium dual time zone tourbillon wristwatch with power reserve and torque indicator, Ref. RM003 (Lot 2658, estimate: HK\$900,000-1,200,000/ US\$115,000-150,000). Issued in 2002, it is a highly coveted masterpiece of modern day horology. The first example to be offered at auction, it is equipped with dual-time indication which is an upgraded version of Richard Mille's first watch, the Tourbillon RM001.



In a group of limited edition Panerai examples is a **Panerai** special edition platinum cushion-shaped split second chronograph wristwatch of the "Radiomir Chrono Split-Seconds Platinum" Model, Ref.



OP6592 (Lot 2776, estimate: HK\$250,000-400,000/US\$32,000-50,000). This attractive piece is number 10 of a very limited edition of just 10 examples made in 2003.

A limited edition **Ulysse Nardin** platinum and diamond-set carrousel tourbillon wristwatch with dual direct escapement and seven day power reserve of the "Diamond Heart Freak" Model, 2005 (Lot 2711, estimate: HK\$400,000-550,000/ US\$50,000-70,000); and a **Piaget** 18k white gold rectangular tourbillon wristwatch with phases of the moon, "Emperador Moonphase Tourbillon", circa 2006 (Lot 2623, estimate: HK\$450,000-650,000/ US\$58,000-82,000) are further highlights.

Patek Philippe Timepieces

Patek Philippe is synonymous with technical superiority and Christie's is delighted to offer over 75 Patek Philippe timepieces in the sale at attractive estimates. Representing a wide variety of designs, models and functions, the wristwatches on offer span from the 1940's to the present day, and will certainly create great interest among Patek Philippe connoisseurs.

Among the rare and modern **Patek Philippe** pieces, References 3970, 5050 and 5059 are all featured, as well as numerous other complicated examples. Of particular interest is a suite of an 18k gold, diamond, onyx and coral bracelet watch together with a matching necklace and bracelet (Lot 2676, estimate: HK\$250,000-400,000/ US\$32,000-50,000). This is a probably a unique suite by Patek



Philippe that comprises both timepiece and exquisite jewellery, and will appeal greatly to ladies with a discerning eye for fashion jewellery.

Four Cartier "Crash" Wristwatches for Ladies

Cartier is renowned not only for its jewellery, but also in its design of innovative and classic watch models. The "Crash" initially released in a very limited edition in the late 1960s, is arguably one of the most elegant and desirable jeweled watch ever made for the lady.



It is very unusual to find several "Crash" watches in one auction and Christie's is privileged to offer four Cartier "Crash" watches together in the sale. These captivating watches are distinguished by their exquisitely crafted asymmetric outlines. One particularly rare example is in 18k pink gold set with pink diamonds (Lot 2604, estimate: HK\$320,000-480,000/ US\$40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*). The second example is in 18k white gold set with diamonds (Lot 2605, estimate: HK\$160,000-250,000/ US\$20,000-32,000), while the last two

examples are in 18k gold (Lot 2603, estimate: HK\$80,000-120,000/ US\$10,000-15,000) and in platinum with a unique customized burgundy dial (Lot 2606, estimate: HK\$240,000-400,000/ US\$30,000-50,000).

Private Collection

An extraordinary private collection of 101 timepieces featuring a wide diversity of examples will be offered, from elegant and sporty to rare and complicated limited edition pieces, all by renowned watchmakers including **IWC**, **Corum**, **Vianney Halter**, **Patek Philippe** and **Panerai**.



On offer is a very rare **IWC** platinum limited edition automatic perpetual calendar minute repeating chronograph wristwatch (Lot 2870, estimate: HK\$640,000-950,000/ US\$80,000-120,000). This “Grande Complication” Model was produced in a small series in 1993 and the present lot is one of 50 examples made. This watch however is made more collectible with its substantial platinum bracelet.

Of special note is a **Corum** 18k gold skeletonised minute repeating tourbillon wristwatch (Lot 2851, estimate: HK\$480,000-640,000/ US\$60,000-80,000). It is one of a very limited edition of just 12 pieces ever made. An unusual and exclusive feature of this fascinating watch is that one could marvel at the complexities of the minute repeating mechanism and tourbillon mechanism directly through its dial crystal, a feature that most other watches do not provide.

Further highlights from the collection are a limited edition **Corum** “La Mysterieuse” 18k gold skeletonised mystery wristwatch with one minute tourbillon made by Christophe Claret (Lot 2801, estimate: HK\$240,000-400,000/ US\$30,000-50,000); and an unusual platinum asymmetric automatic perpetual calendar wristwatch by **Vianney Halter** (Lot 2820, Estimate: HK\$240,000-400,000/US\$30,000-50,000).

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Tokyo	Christie's Japan	17-18 April
New York	Christie's New York	22 - 24 April
Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	27 - 28 April
Bangkok	The Four Seasons Hotel	3 - 4 May
Shanghai	Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel	12 - 13 May
Beijing	The Ritz-Carlton Beijing	15 - 16 May
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	19 - 20 May
Hong Kong	Convention & Exhibition Centre	25 - 30 May

Auction:

Important Watches including a Private Collection, 31 May at 11 am & 2 pm
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totaled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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