

For Immediate Release

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FOLLOWING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SPRING AUCTION WITH A RECORD SALE TOTAL OF HK\$ 44 MILLION, CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG OFFERS AN EXCITING FALL AUCTION FEATURING SUPERB AND RARE TIMEPIECES

Important Watches

1 November 2004

Hong Kong – Christie's forthcoming auction of *Important Watches* will take place on 1 November at the J W Marriott and will once again offer extremely rare timepieces, enamelled pocketwatches and wrist and pocketwatches by world-renowned watchmakers. The sale also features a selection of limited edition pens from various world renowned manufacturers.

Of particular appeal is a fabulous collection of Chinese market watches which will create immense interest among watch and clock collectors. The highlight is a magnificent and rare ivory, agate and paste-set fan, set with a 22k gold watch and compartment for smelling salts. The fan itself is an exquisite work of art with the leaf finely painted on both sides and the sixteen ivory sticks finely pierced and engraved. The carved ivory and embellished guardsticks are set on one side with a miniature skeletonised watch signed **Upjohn** and a compartment for smelling salts on the opposite side (Estimate: HK\$400,000 – 500,000/ US\$ 50,000 – 70,000).

Equally magnificent is a George III ormolu, agate and paste-set musical automaton dated circa 1790, also made for the Chinese market. The case is surmounted by two Oriental gentlemen and is profusely decorated with agate panels, foliate cast ormolu frame and urn finials resting on finely cast elephants and volute scroll cast with grotesque masks. The main automaton casing features a series of paste-set rosettes which resolve to the delicate tinkling sound of six fine tunes (Estimate: HK\$480,000 – 640,000/ US\$ 60,000 – 80,000). A sumptuously set 20K, agate and gem-set pair case automaton watch signed **James Cox** and dated circa 1775 makes an excellent companion to the musical automaton. The pocket watch features eight paste-set stars that spin within an outer case set with agate panels, ruby and seed pearl frames and diamond-set florets (Estimate: HK\$640,000 – 800,000/ US\$80,000 – 100,000). Similar timepieces were found in the collections of Qing Dynasty emperors and can be seen in the Palace Museum collections.

Wristwatches with highly complex mechanisms, limited editions and unique pieces continue to be greatly sought after by watch collectors for their perceived values of craft and rarity, and the combination of tradition and innovation.

Patek Philippe is synonymous with technical superiority and this sale features the exceptionally rare *Celestial* model, ref 5102G. this Sky Moon *Celestial* 18k white gold self-winding astronomical wristwatch with sky chart, phases and orbit of the moon is one of the most complicated watches manufactured by the world renowned watchmaker (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000 – 1,600,000/ US\$ 150,000 – 200,000). Also by **Patek Philippe** is a fine and very rare limited edition platinum self-winding annual calendar wristwatch with sweep centre seconds, 24 hour indication and phases of the moon. This model was produced for the 125th anniversary of Wempe, a German retailer and the 75th anniversary of Patek Philippe and Wempe's business relationship (Estimate: HK\$400,000 – 500,000/ US\$50,000 – 70,000).

Unique timepieces are highly coveted by watch collectors. Christie's is proud to offer an important *Tourbillon Imperial* Prototype No. 00, dated circa 1996 by **Franck Muller**. This fine 18k white gold tourbillon minute repeating tonneau-shaped wristwatch with special rose dial is a prototype and therefore the very first of this series to be produced. In addition, this watch has a particularly interesting feature whereby the three arms of the tourbillon carriage are shaped like swords with the tips converging at the centre. The sword motif is specially chosen for its mythical quality to ward off or cut through evil and bad spirits (Estimate: HK\$720,000 – 1,000,000/ US\$90,000 - 130,000).

Complicated ladies' mechanical watches used to be something of a rarity and only of late are manufactures beginning to design these watches with ladies in mind. One of these specially designed watches is the rare *Répétition Minutes Carillon*, No.1 by **Audemars Piguet**. This lady's 18k pink gold watch is equipped with a minute repeating carillon on three gongs which is an extremely rare feature in a wristwatch. This fine and exclusive made-for-women mechanical watch is estimated at HK\$400,000 – 500,000/ US\$50,000 – 70,000.

Many famous watchmakers and jewellery houses combine the beauty of diamonds and gemstones with technical sophistication and excellent craftsmanship to create timepieces which showcase creative designs and the dazzling magnificence of the stones. Amongst jewelled watches, the *Lord Kalla* and the *Lady Kalla* are undoubtedly the most lavish and grandiose examples.

A combination of excellent technology and scintillating diamonds, the *Lord and Lady Kalla* are two watches in the Kalla series in the **Vacheron Constantin** range of Haute Joaillerie watches which only utilize well matched and top quality diamonds in their production. The stunning

Lord Kalla in 18K gold is produced utilising 290 rectangular-cut diamonds in the case and bracelet. (Estimate: HK\$1,600,000 – 2,400,000/ US\$ 300,000 – 400,000). The *Lady Kalla* is as strikingly elegant with its 18k gold and diamond-set case and bracelet totalling 108 rectangular-cut diamonds (Estimate: HK\$800,000 – 1,200,000/ US\$100,000 – 150,000).

Amongst the limited edition pens offered in the *Important Watch* sale, there are two very important highlights from **Montblanc**. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Montblanc's *Meisterstück* in 1999, the company created a series of unique and exclusive editions – "Limited Anniversary Edition 75". This sale features two from this series - the very rare limited edition 18k gold self-winding skeletonised wristwatch No. 54/75 and the matching limited edition 18k gold skeletonised fountain pen No. 54/75. Both pieces are engraved with "75 Years of Passion and Soul". Both pieces are sold with No Reserve and the watch is estimated at HK\$ 64,000 – 80,000/ US\$8,000 – 10,000 while the pen has estimates of HK\$40,000 – 55,000/ US\$5,000 – 7,000.

The *Important Watches* catalogue also features many wristwatches by **Graff** and **Cartier** with a particularly impressive collection of **Rolex** and **Franck Muller** watches, along with an array of classical and modern designs to be sold without reserve. Limited edition pens from **Montblanc**, **Visconti** and **Montegrappa** will also be on offer.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Tokyo	30 September – 1 October	HSBC Building
Seoul	3 – 4 October	Gana Art Gallery
Kuala Lumpur	5 – 6 October	Shangri-La Hotel
Singapore	8 – 9 October	Sir Stamford Room
Bangkok	11 – 12 October	The Four Seasons Bangkok
Taipei	16 – 17 October	Fubon Life Assurance Building
Shanghai	20 – 21 October	Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Beijing	23 – 24 October	The St. Regis Beijing
Hong Kong	29 October – 1 November	JW Marriott Hotel

Auction:

Important Watches, 1 November 2004 at 4.00pm, J W Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Important Watches can be found on 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. 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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