

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG IMPORTANT WATCH AUCTION SPOTLIGHTS
UNIQUE TIMEPIECES WITH HIGHLY COMPLEXED MECHANISMS
TOGETHER WITH MAGNIFICENT JEWELLED WATCHES**

Important Watches

27 October 2003

Hong Kong – Christie's forthcoming auction of Important Watches will take place on 27 October at the JW Marriott and will create immense interest among watch collectors with the offer of five unique timepieces by world-renowned watchmakers. Other highlights include magnificent jewelled watches and mechanically intricate wristwatches by Patek Philippe, Vacheron & Constantin and A. Lange & Söhne amongst others. The sale will also feature a highly varied and exciting selection of timepieces from 1940s to today from famous jewellery houses and watchmakers such as Jaeger-leCoultre, Chopard, Blancpain and Graff, all offered with attractive estimates and some without reserve. The sale also features a selection of limited edition Montblanc pens from various private collectors.

Unique Timepieces

To commemorate special anniversaries, watchmakers produce limited editions to showcase superb workmanship and innovative mechanisms of their timepieces. These watches are highly coveted by collectors particularly when they are unique creations. Christie's is most privileged to include five such watches in our sale.

Gerald Genta designed and created four wristwatches in the Grande Sonnerie model to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the company in 1994. Each watch differs in the metal used or in terms of complications and is unique in the world. On offer is the highly important Grande Sonnerie Retrograde model – an 18k pink gold, minute repeating, perpetual calendar, tourbillon wristwatch with retrograde date and power (estimate: HK\$1,300,000 – 1,500,000/ US\$170,000 – 190,000). For the 125th anniversary of IWC (International Watch Company), the company produced its most complicated watch, Il Destriero Scafusia or the Schaffhausen

Warhorse – a platinum minute repeating, perpetual calendar, split second chronograph, tourbillon wristwatch with phases of the moon. The watch in the sale is number 30 in a very limited edition of 125 examples and is the only watch to be produced with a midnight blue dial (estimate: HK\$1,000,000 – 1,400,000/ US\$130,000 – 180,000).

Audemars Piguet produced only one wristwatch with a skeletonised dial and finely engraved case in the Grande Sonnerie model. This unique 18k pink gold quarter repeating and striking wristwatch is valued at HK\$400,000 – 480,000/ US\$50,000 – 60,000. Repeating and striking features used to be found more in clocks. With advanced technology, watchmakers are able to fit the numerous parts of such complex mechanisms into the limited space of a wristwatch case. Not essential to telling time, the complicated device is more a showcase of excellent craftsmanship. Yet another highlight of the sale is this possibly unique 18k white gold and diamond-set openface tourbillon watch by Vacheron & Constantin. The watch was made to special order and combines a movement dating from 1945 with a case manufactured in 1993. The tourbillon movement is a highly complex mechanism built to compensate for the influence of gravity. A tourbillon movement is synonymous with high-quality watches (estimate: HK\$400,000 – 550,000/ US\$50,000 – 70,000).

The only jewelled watch out of the five unique watches is a magnificent lady's 18k white gold, diamond and emerald-set octagonal wristwatch with bracelet by Graff, the internationally renowned jewellery house. The total weight of the diamonds is 52.66 carats while the emeralds weigh 9.06 carats. Estimate upon request, this watch is the only one of its kind produced by Graff, which is famous for the superb quality of its gemstones and the audacity of their designs.

Jewelled Watches

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. Piaget is famous for its magnificent "Aura" wristwatches and this striking diamond and sapphire-set oval wristwatch is a variation of the theme. Endowed with a diamond and sapphire-set dial and its diamond and sapphire bracelet, this watch is a statement of pure opulence (estimate: 1,000,000 – 1,500,000/ US\$130,000 – 190,000). Audemars Piguet continues to create innovative designs using diamonds and gemstones in both gentlemen and ladies' watches. As illustrated by this superb white gold and diamond-set skeletonised, self-winding, perpetual calendar wristwatch, the design is intended to showcase the heavily engraved and lace-like movement, visible through the transparent case (estimate: HK\$800,000 – 1,000,000/ US\$100,000 – 130,000).

Technical Perfection by Patek Philippe, A. Lange & Söhne, Breguet and F.P. Journe

A watchmaker's pride and joy is to manufacture complex timepieces with multiple functions. This demands technical perfection and excellent craftsmanship. Patek Philippe is synonymous with technical superiority and the house is responsible for innovations which shape the history of watchmaking. The sale features many complex models by Patek Philippe. Highly important is a fine 18k gold minute repeating wristwatch with its 39 jewels, 22k gold micro-rotor and its elegant white enamel dial with Roman numerals (estimate: HK\$800,000 – 950,000/ US\$100,000 – 130,000). The other is a fine platinum self-winding perpetual calendar wristwatch with retrograde date, phases of the moon and sweep centre second (estimate: HK\$220,000 – 280,000/ US\$28,000 – 36,000).

Lange & Söhne is another watchmaker with a long tradition in complex timepieces as shown in this rare and important limited edition platinum tourbillon wristwatch with power reserve. This Tourbillon "Pour le Merite" was produced in 1998 in a limited edition of 50 examples with 40 on leather straps and 10 on bracelets. This is possibly the only timepiece produced today using chain and fusée for power equalization and is no. 38 out of 50. (estimate: HK\$720,000 – 950,000/ US\$90,000 – 120,000). Of equal complexity is this Breguet 18k pink gold hunter cased tourbillon wristwatch of the Grandes Complications model. The reference 1801 in white and rose gold engraved on the dial is part of a special edition of commemorative timepieces specially created and designed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the invention of the tourbillon by Abraham-Louis Breguet on "7 Messidor An 9" (June 26, 1801) (estimate: HK\$550,000 – 650,000/ US\$70,000 – 80,000).

F. P. Journe is a most well known watchmaker among true watch connoisseurs. François-Paul Journe earned the title of master watchmaker by the time he was twenty and is one of the few watchmakers in the world who designs and manufactures timepieces entirely in his workshop, thus his motto "Invenit et Fecit" or "I have found and I have made". This platinum Tourbillon Souverain wristwatch with remontoire and power reserve is most rare and unusual as it is the only wristwatch to be fitted with a remontoire that provides a constant force to the escapement which maintains the isochronism of the balance oscillations (estimate: HK\$360,000 – 420,000/ US\$45,000 – 54,000).

The Important Watch catalogue also features many wristwatches by Bulgari, Rolex and Franck Muller, along with an array of classical and modern designs to be sold without reserve.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

<i>Bangkok</i>	<i>7 – 8 October</i>	<i>The Regent Bangkok</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>10 – 11 October</i>	<i>Grand Hyatt Singapore</i>
<i>Tokyo</i>	<i>14 – 15 October</i>	<i>HSBC Building</i>
<i>Tainan</i>	<i>15 October</i>	<i>Robert & Li Art Gallery</i>
<i>Taipei</i>	<i>18 – 19 October</i>	<i>Taipei Metro</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>24 –28 October</i>	<i>JW Marriott Hotel</i>

Auction:

Important Watches 27 October 2003 at 4.00 pm at JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

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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