

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

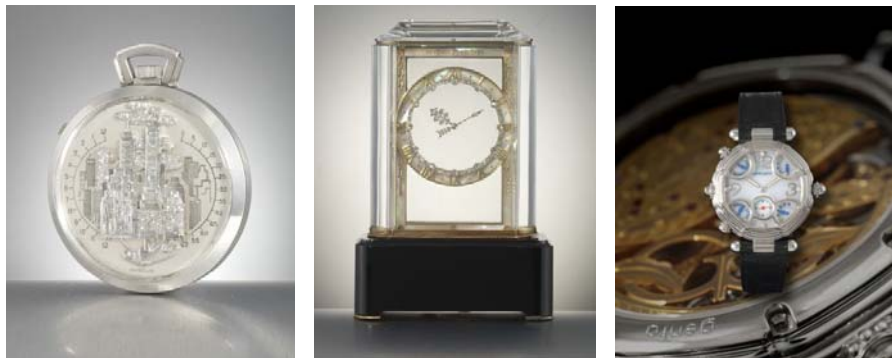
佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

17 October 2005

Contact: Victoria Cheung 852.2978.9919 vcheung@christies.com
 Dick Lee 852.2978.9966 dlee@christies.com

**RARE AND OPULENT TIMEPIECES TO BE OFFERED IN CHRISTIE'S
HONG KONG WATCH AUTUMN AUCTION**



**Important Watches including the Fine Collection of a Gentleman
30 November 2005**

Hong Kong - Following the most successful Hong Kong watches auction held by Christie's in Spring 2005 which realized over HK\$68 million, Christie's Hong Kong will present yet another exceptional selection of over 500 wristwatches and timepieces at the Autumn sale of *Important Watches* which includes a fine collection of modern watches from the collection of a gentleman. Renowned watchmakers, such as **Patek Philippe, Vacheron Constantin, Gerald Genta, Audemars Piguet** and **Brequet**, are well represented in the sale. Of special note is an exceptional selection of tourbillon watches and a rare Art Deco 'Mystery Clock' by Cartier.

Mystery Clock by Cartier

An Art Deco 'Model A' mystery clock by **Cartier** is one of the highlights of the auction (Estimate: HK\$1,600,000-2,000,000/ US\$200,000-250,000). Dating to circa 1925, this clock is lavishly adorned with diamond, rock crystal, onyx and mother-of-pearl. Since its creation in the 19th century, mystery clocks have captivated the hearts of many. The clock's mechanism is hidden in the frame such that the hands seem to float in space without any connection to the movement. Since every part of the

Christie's Hong Kong Limited
2203-5 Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong
tel 852 2521 5396 fax 852 2845 2646
www.christies.com

clock had to be hand-made, each one took from three to twelve months to finish, employing not only the watchmaker but including the designer, the 'orfèvre-boîtier', the enameller and the lapidary. This model is particularly exquisite with its dainty diamond-set decorative hands floating in rock crystal and within a mother-of-pearl frame.

Tourbillon Wristwatches

A group of more than twenty tourbillon wristwatches in the sale provides a fascinating insight into the development of this unique feature, as well as a good opportunity for watch collectors to acquire a wide range of tourbillon watches from celebrated watchmakers.

Invented by Abraham-Louis Breguet in 1795 and patented in 1801, the tourbillon was created specially for pocket watches and intended to compensate for the slight differences in timing recorded by the watch when held in different positions. The tourbillon remains a much coveted feature on luxurious mechanical watches today.

A fine example from the inventor of the tourbillon is this very rare limited edition 18K white gold tourbillon wristwatch with enamel dial by **Breguet**. *Ref. 1801* (Estimate: HK\$650,000-850,000/ US\$80,000-110,000). This is part of a special edition created for the 200th anniversary of Breguet's invention of the tourbillon on '7 Messidor An 9' (26 June 1801). Only a total of 66 examples were produced in the limited edition series – 28 examples in white gold of which this is No. 17, 28 examples in pink gold and 10 examples in platinum..

Equally rare is this very important **Franck Muller** tonneau-shaped dual axis tourbillon retrograde wristwatch, No 00, dated 2003 (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,000,000/ US\$150,000-250,000). As a result of the highly complex mechanism, this Revolution 2 Tourbillon required many hours of intensive workmanship and according to the manufacturer, only six watches of this model were produced each year.

Made in 1996, the *Grande Sonnerie* Model by **Gerald Genta** is unique and the 18K white gold tourbillon wristwatch on offer in this sale is a showcase for the multiple complications that one could possibly imagine in a wristwatch. One of the most striking features is the minute repeater of 4 gongs, a mechanism more frequently found in clocks and rarely included in a wristwatch. In addition, on the hour, the watch will automatically play the Westminster Chime, a tune which is unique to this particular *Grande Sonnerie* Model (Estimate: HK\$950,000-1,200,000/ US\$120,000-150,000).

A. Lange & Söhne is a watchmaker with a long tradition in complex timepieces as shown in this rare limited edition 18K pink gold Lange 1 Tourbillon wristwatch with date and power reserve, *circa 2003* (Estimate: HK\$580,000-750,000/ US\$75,000-95,000). Watches from this prestigious watch maker always combine the latest technical innovations with simply elegant designs. Produced in 2003, this model exists in a limited edition of 250 pieces in 18K pink gold and 150 pieces in platinum.

From the house of **Cartier** is a limited edition semi-skeletonised tourbillon wristwatch, *Circa 2002* (Estimate: HK\$400,000-550,000/ US\$50,000-70,000). Cartier's watches reflect the house's talent for timeless designs and benefit from the same level of superb workmanship that Cartier gives to their jewellery pieces. This opulent watch, characterized by its visually appealing jewelled lever movement and silvered latticework dial, is truly a work of perfection.

Jaeger-leCoultre, creator of the Reverso has been making complicated timepieces since 1833. Since its creation in the 1930s, the Reverso has become a classic. Variations on the same theme include this fine limited edition 18K pink gold rectangular reversible tourbillon wristwatch with power reserve, *circa 1993* (Estimate: HK\$200,000-250,000/ US\$25,000-32,000). Only 500 pieces of this model were produced in 1993, and the piece on offer is of No. 378, making this watch extraordinarily desirable in the eyes of every collector.

Complicated Watches

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. This sale features the highly collectible Ref 3970E. Made in 1991, this fine 18K white gold wristwatch features a perpetual calendar, chronograph and phases of the moon. (Estimate: HK\$500,000-600,000/ US\$65,000-75,000). 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 as can be seen in this notable piece by **Audemars Piguet**. Created circa 1994, this limited edition platinum wristwatch No. 11/25 features the minute repeating mechanism and is enhanced by a skeletonised dial. (Estimate: HK\$280,000-350,000/ US\$35,000-45,000).

An Exceptional 18th Century Heart-Shaped Watch

Christie's Hong Kong watch department has become a center for rare Chinese Market timepieces.

This sale features an exceptional heart-shaped dual-time gilt metal, silver and pearl-set watch set within a magnificent Chinese Imperial multi-coloured glass-set belt-buckle, crafted in the 1770s in London by **James Cox** (Estimate: HK\$240,000-320,000/ US\$30,000-40,000). Glass encrusted watches were particularly favoured by the Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) as well as glass encrusted ornaments and clocks. Many such pieces were sent as gifts or tributes to the Imperial Palace. This watch was probably intended as a presentation object to the Imperial court and appears to be from Guangzhou. It is a wonderful example of European watchmaking technique combined with the long history of the Chinese Imperial Workshop of Guangzhou glassware.

Timepieces manufactured by James Cox are much coveted by watch collectors worldwide. Cox was particularly renowned for his complicated musical and automaton clocks, the majority of which were exported abroad to adorn the palaces of the Emperor Qianlong and Indian Maharajas as well as the Tsar of Russia and Ottoman Kings.

Watches with Unusual and Innovative Design

A highly unusual limited cylindrical wristwatch by **Parmigiani Fleurier** is another prized offering (Lot 2832, Estimate: HK\$700,000-900,000/ US\$90,000-115,000). This 18K white gold wristwatch with ten day power reserve emulates the construction of the legendary Bugatti car engine with the first transverse movement developed entirely by the Fleurier workshops after more than three years of research. This Bugatti Type 370 with its highly innovative movement spread between five plates arranged along a horizontal axis is in total harmony with the automobile spirit of the design.

Of particular interest in the sale is an extremely rare platinum keyless lever 'bras en l'air' dress watch with diamond-set dial, *circa 1940* by **Vacheron Constantin** and retailed by Gübelin (Estimate: HK\$250,000-320,000/ US\$32,000-40,000). Between 1930 and 1940, Vacheron Constantin produced 4 series of twelve 'bras en l'air' timepieces. To read the time, one has to press a button and the hands will pop up in the air, the platinum aeroplane-shaped hands indicating the hour and minutes in Arabic numerals. Each of these highly original timepieces depicts various themes such as 'Views of New York City', 'Caravels', 'Wizards', 'Snake Charmers' and 'Eagles'. The piece on offer is with the New York City skyline set in diamond.

Jewelled Watches

Cartier is not only a world-renowned jeweller but is an innovator of the most elegant and classical watch models such as the ever popular Santos, the Tonneau, the Baignoire, the Tortue and the Tank watch. The contemporary re-editions of all these models are still the best-selling watches a century after their creation. Included in the sale is a spectacular lady's 18k pink gold and pink diamond-set Baignoire Allongée. First launched by Cartier in 1912, the original oval case of the Baignoire was

CHRISTIE'S

stretched to become an oversized dress watch which drapes elegantly over the wrist. The present model with its pink gold and pink diamonds is highly sought after and will certainly attract a lot of attention amongst the ladies (Estimate: HK\$300,000-400,000/ US\$39,000-50,000).

A big selection of watches from other world renowned watch-makers will also be on offer together with watches to be sold with no reserves.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	October 7–8
New York	Christie's	October 17-18
Seoul	Seomi & Tuus	October 19-20
Hong Kong	Mandarin Oriental	October 22-23
Bangkok	The Four Seasons Hotel	October 27-28
Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	November 5-6
Shanghai	The Westin Shanghai	November 8–9
Jakarta	Christie's	November 15-16
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	November 19-20
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	November 25–29

Auction:

Important Watches including the Fine Collection of a Gentleman, November 30 at 11:00am & 2:00pm
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

More information about Christie's sales of Important Watches, including the Fine Collection of a Gentleman 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.

###

Images available upon request

Visit Christie's at www.christies.com