

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO STAGE LARGEST WATCH AUCTION IN ASIA

**Over 580 Important & Rare Timepieces Valued at HK\$100 Million
Will Go Under the Hammer in Hong Kong**

**Important Watches
November 29, 2007**

Hong Kong – Christie's is pleased to announce the November 29 sale of *Important Watches*, one of the many highlights in the week-long series of exciting sales in Hong Kong this fall season. **With over 580 lots valued in excess of HK\$100 million (US\$12.8 million), this is the largest watch auction ever presented in Asia.** Leading the sale are several important multi-functional masterpieces by Patek Philippe, a series of distinguished private collections, and a unique made-to-special-order pocket watch. With pieces from major manufacturers including Audemars Piguet, Breguet, A. Lange & Söhne and Rolex representing two hundred years of horological design and innovation, this sale ensures a feast for connoisseurs and collectors throughout the world.

"Building on the momentum of a strong first half, with global watch sales at Christie's totaling a record US\$36.4 million, our international watch department wraps up an already strong year with the largest watch sale ever staged in Asia. This sale follows on the success of our May sale in Hong Kong, which achieved the highest total ever in this category by Christie's Asia. The watch market in this region continues to see tremendous growth, with highly sought-after and rare timepieces making strong prices. This sale presents a range of extraordinary pieces, and we anticipate a strong response from collectors not only in Asia but around the world," says **Tim Bourne, International Co-Head of Christie's Watch Department.**



The sale will present several highly complicated pieces including a **rare 18k pink gold Patek Philippe Ref. 3974** (estimate: HK\$2,400,000-3,500,000 / US\$300,000-450,000, Lot 2760). This sublimely complex creation exemplifies the superior craftsmanship of Patek Philippe. With 467 miniscule parts, the Ref. 3974 houses a minute repeater, perpetual calendar, 24-hour subsidiary dial and phases of the moon functions in a proportionally small movement. Primarily produced in yellow gold and no longer in production, examples in pink gold, such as the present lot, are a rarity on the market and sure to capture the attention of collectors around the world.

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Another notable and highly complicated piece is the **Patek Philippe Ref. 5016** (estimate: HK\$3,200,000-4,500,000 / US\$400,000-580,000, Lot 3039). This exquisite piece represents a milestone in horological expertise by uniting the most coveted complications of a tourbillon, minute repeater, perpetual calendar with retrograde date dial hand, and moon phase display. **It is the second most complicated wristwatch ever produced by Patek Philippe** and is surpassed only by the Sky Moon Tourbillon, Ref. 5002. The two references are the only tourbillon wristwatches with both the Geneva Seal Hallmark and C.O.S.C certificates. That the present lot lays claim to the two most prestigious horological honors further attests to its masterful craftsmanship and design.



The highlight among the important pocket watches offered is a special order **Grand Complication Patek Philippe, Ref. 935** (estimate: HK\$3,200,000-4,800,000 / US\$400,000-600,000, Lot 3041). This exceedingly complicated and unique piece features minute repeating, Grand Sonnerie, perpetual calendar, split seconds chronograph, keyless lever, and phases of the moon movements. The finely painted enamel portrait of a young lady and young gentleman on the circular case lends an especially romantic element to this extraordinary timepiece.

A gem in the sale is an exceptional lady's 18k gold, yellow and white diamond-set automatic wristwatch, Model 'Marine' by **Breguet** (estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,800,000 / US\$150,000-230,000, Lot 3020). This superb jewelled watch was created for the original owner's wife, with movement from Breguet and jewels from England's famous jeweller David Morris. Its opulence is exemplified by its diamond-set bracelet and dial adorned with yellow and white diamonds totaling over 46 carats.



Another true rarity in the sale is a **Patek Philippe Ref. 3450** (estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000 / US\$130,000-190,000, Lot 2947) 18k gold automatic perpetual calendar wristwatch with phases of the moon. Only 244 examples of Ref: 3450 were made between 1981 and 1986. This model is from the third series produced of this reference number. Only six examples of the third series Ref. 3450

exist in the market, and this watch is one of the two examples with integrated Patek Philippe link bracelet and clasp. It is expected to create great interest among Patek Philippe connoisseurs.

Wempe Wristwatches

It is very unusual to find such a selection of wristwatches retailed by Wempe in one auction and Christie's is privileged to offer 12 Wempe watches together in the sale. All these magnificent timepieces were produced by world renowned watchmakers such as Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, Vacheron Constantin, Lange & Söhne, Glashütte and Panerai in collaboration with

Wempe. One notable example is a **Patek Philippe** platinum, limited edition automatic annual calendar wristwatch. (estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000 / US\$65,000-90,000, Lot 3010). Gold, pink gold and white gold models from the same series will also be offered in the sale and is expected to draw huge interest from collectors worldwide.



A Private Collection of Rolex Watches



The sale also includes a number of distinguished private collections, one of which consists of **60 watches by Rolex**, from 1920's enameled watches to the popular Daytona model, each in excellent condition – many even in original condition. A rare and historically interesting stainless steel **Oyster Perpetual Submariner** automatic centre seconds wristwatch with military markings and hands, **Ref. 5513** (estimate: HK\$250,000-350,000 / US\$32,000-45,000, Lot 2893).

This exceptional timepiece was produced for military use in 1975 and is very well preserved with its original bracelet.

Another highlight from the Rolex collection is a rare stainless steel chronograph wristwatch, Cosmograph Daytona, **Model Paul Newman Ref. 6239** (estimate: HK\$400,000-600,000 / US\$50,000-75,000, Lot 2906). Manufactured in 1968, it is in excellent condition with mono-metallic balance adjusted in three positions. This collection will cater to a wide range of tastes and price points, ensuring something for both new and seasoned collectors.



Pre-sale exhibitions:

Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel, Shanghai	3 – 4 November
Beijing	Sofitel Wanda Beijing	7 – 9 November
Bangkok	Four Seasons Hotel, Bangkok	13 – 14 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	17 – 18 November
Hong Kong	Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	22 – 28 November

Auction:

Important Watches, 29 November at 10:00 am & 2:00 pm
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / US\$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / US\$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by US\$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market 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, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from US\$200 to over US\$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including 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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