

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2008

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CHRISTIE'S DECEMBER IMPORTANT WATCHES
FROM VINTAGE TO MODERN TIMES

New York — Christie's **Important Watches** sale on December 12 in New York will offer exceptional pocket watches and wristwatches of breadth and scope. With over 300 lots ranging from vintage masters like Patek Philippe, Rolex, Cartier, Breguet and A. Lange & Sohne, to contemporary wristwatches by, F.P. Journe, Ulysse Nardin, Gerald Genta, Hublot, Pierre Kunz, this well-rounded sale offers a wide variety of makers with prices to fit all budgets, with estimates starting at \$1,000.

MODERN



Leading the selection of modern wristwatches, and appearing for the first time at auction, is a rare platinum split seconds perpetual calendar wristwatch by Patek Philippe (ref. 5004) with moon phases and baguette diamond numerals, made in 1998 (*illustrated left*- estimate: \$250,000 – 350,000). The lot is in excellent condition and is accompanied with its original certificate of origin. Also appearing at auction, an 18k white gold wristwatch by Patek Philippe (ref. 3939H) is the first white gold ref. 3939H produced by Patek (estimate: \$220,000 – 280,000) to appear at auction. This complicated timepiece is exemplary of the master craftsmanship of Patek, not only because it consists of a total of 336 parts but it also houses both minute repeating and tourbillion function within a small case.

Other highlights of modern examples include a rare platinum “San Marco” repeating wristwatch with Jacquemart by Ulysse Nardin, made in 1996 (estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000) and an 18k pink gold day-date wristwatch by Rolex (ref. 1803), made in 1975 (estimate: \$8,000 – 10,000). Lady's wristwatches are highlighted by a pair of white gold and diamond set bracelet watches by Van Cleef and Arpels, made in 2000 (estimate: \$10,000 – 15,000), and an art deco platinum and diamond wristwatch with unusual hooded lugs by Cartier (\$15,000 – 20,000).

VINTAGE

The vintage portion of the sale offers a strong selection of perpetual calendar wristwatches by Patek Philippe and is highlighted by a pink gold perpetual calendar wristwatch with center seconds by Patek Philippe (ref. 2438/1) manufactured in 1959 (estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000) with its original certificate. The reference was the first water-resistant-type perpetual calendar wristwatch made in a series by any company.



Another highlight is an amazing white gold perpetual calendar wristwatch (ref. 3448) in outstanding condition made in 1971 by Patek (*illustrated left*- \$240,000 – 340,000). Other examples include the first perpetual chronograph made in a series by a watch company — a rare perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch (ref. 1518) by Patek made in 1948 (\$300,000 – 400,000), and a perpetual calendar wristwatch with center seconds, (ref. 2497) made in 1954 (\$220,000 – 320,000).

Other vintage timepieces include a stainless steel wristwatch with Gay Freres bracelet watch by Patek Philippe (ref. 96) (estimate: \$15,000 – 20,000), and from Cartier is an 18k gold Chinoise wristwatch with European Watch and Clock Co. movement, circa 1950 (486390) (estimate: \$15,000 – 20,000).

Auction: *Important Watches*

December 12

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

December 6-11

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This 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 expertise, as well as 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 \$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 and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *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.