

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

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**PATEK PHILIPPE, JAEGER-LECOULTRE AND AUDEMARS PIGUET
LEAD CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK WATCHES SALE ON JUNE 16**

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE LEO COLLECTION: 31 SOPHISTICATED WATCHES
CURATED BY FRANK SCHILLING, INTERNET ENTREPRENEUR AND
AVID WATCH COLLECTOR**

**EXCEPTIONAL WATCHES WITH INTRIGUING PROVENANCE:
HOWARD HUGHES, GENE AUTRY, AND ROY ROGERS**



AUDEMARS PIGUET
Ref. 25958 PT
Manufactured in 2002
Estimate: \$80,000-120,000



PATEK PHILIPPE
Ref. 5016
Manufactured in 1993
Estimate: \$350,000-500,000



JAEGER-LECOULTRE
Ref. 233.64 20
Manufactured in 2009
Estimate: \$200,000-300,000

New York - As the global watch-collecting community readies for Christie's major watches auction in Hong Kong on June 2, Christie's New York is pleased to preview highlights of its upcoming June 16 sale of *Important Watches Featuring the Leo Collection*. The sale of over 385 lots is the final watches auction of the Spring season and is expected to achieve in excess of \$7 million. Featuring a broad range of vintage and modern wristwatches, pocket watches, ladies watches, and desk clocks from the top manufacturers, the sale is led by a spectacular collection of 31 sophisticated watches curated by the Internet entrepreneur Frank Schilling, an avid collector of top-quality modern watches by Patek Philippe, Rolex, and Jaeger-LeCoultre. Prices within the total sale begin at \$1,000 and range upwards to \$500,000 for the most important and rare timepieces.

Sales of fine and rare watches at Christie's worldwide have continued to gain momentum this season. Top prices were achieved at Christie's Geneva on May 10, including a record-setting \$5.7 million (SFr. 6,259,000) for the "Mona Lisa" of watches, a gold **Patek Philippe Ref. 1527** manufactured in 1943. On June 2, Christie's Hong Kong will follow this remarkable offering with the finest and most complicated of Patek Philippe watches, the **Ref. 5002P**, also known as the Sky Moon Tourbillon (estimate: \$830,000-1,280,000 US/ HK\$6.5-10 million). In response to continued client demand for these exceptional watches, Christie's New York is delighted to present over 100 Patek Philippe watches in a variety of styles and finishes as part of the upcoming sale.

Sam Hines, Head of Watches at Christie's New York stated, *"This has been a remarkable season for watch collectors around the world, as renewed confidence in the market has drawn out a number of excellent private consignments, including Frank Schilling's superb Leo Collection, which will highlight our upcoming New York sale. With 31 top-quality dress and sports watches to choose from – one for each day of the month, as presented in our sales catalogue – we invite both new and established watch enthusiasts to explore the beauty and technical superiority of this special collection. As Mr. Schilling noted, in naming his collection, these are 'the leaders, the kings, the lions' of the world of watches".*

THE LEO COLLECTION – CURATED BY FRANK SCHILLING



Frank Schilling's *Leo Collection* of exceptional wristwatches was hand-selected to match the owner's jet-setting lifestyle as founder and chief executive of Name Administration, Inc., a leading Internet domain name company with over a quarter of a million domains in its portfolio. Highlights include a number of extraordinary watches never before offered to the public, including the extremely fine and rare **Patek Philippe Ref. 5101** in platinum, a rectangular chronometer tourbillon with 10-day power reserve manufactured *circa* 2008 (pictured at left: estimate: \$180,000-250,000).

This highly complicated timepiece is the first to combine two important complications - tandem mainspring barrels with 240 hours of energy storage capacity plus a tourbillon precision regulator composed of 72 individual parts – all within the confined space of the rectangular movement. As is characteristic of Patek Philippe watches, the sleek look of the outside of the timepiece reveals no sign of the complexity of its inner workings.

Additional top examples making their first appearance at auction are two stunning **Patek Philippe Ref. 5970s**, one in white gold from *circa* 2005 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), and one in platinum with a black face, manufactured *circa* 2009 (pictured at right; estimate: \$110,000-150,000). Now discontinued by the firm, these rare watches feature a perpetual calendar chronograph with moon phases, and include both their original certificates and packaging.



One of the most anticipated watches of the *Leo Collection* is the remarkable **Jaeger-LeCoultre Ref. 233.64 20**, a masterpiece of horological design (pictured page one, left; estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Limited to just 75 pieces, the model is a skeletonized platinum multi-axis spherical tourbillon reverso wristwatch, with a 50-hour power reserve. Powered by the Gyrotourbillon 2, the watch's innovative design allows for greater balance inertia and faster carriage rotation, which leads to better precision timing.

TOP PATEK PHILIPPE REFERENCES



In a sales season dominated by top-quality Patek Philippe watches, Christie's New York is delighted to offer the extremely rare and highly important **Patek Philippe Ref. 5016**, the second most complicated wristwatch ever produced by the firm (pictured at left; estimate: \$500,000-800,000) and surpassed only by the celebrated Sky Moon Tourbillon. This particular model, manufactured in 2008 and finished in platinum with a black dial, is a perpetual calendar, minute-repeating tourbillon wristwatch with retrograde date and moon phases, and is accompanied by original certificates of origin and the original packaging. A second example of the same reference with a gold case and white dial is offered earlier in the sale (estimate: \$350,000-500,000).

Also featured in the sale is the ultimate must-have for any serious watch collector – a rare **Patek Philippe Ref. 1518** from 1944 that was originally retailed by the venerable House of Cartier (pictured at right; estimate: \$250,000-500,000). Finished in gold, the watch is a perpetual calendar chronograph with moon phases and original strap and buckle, and includes a hand-stamped Cartier reference number and certificate of authenticity. Maintained in excellent condition, the watch is one of the finest example of this reference to be offered in recent memory. Also featured is the equally rare **Patek Philippe Ref. 1436** in 18k gold, a split-seconds chronograph with Breguet numerals that was also retailed by Cartier in 1941 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).



Among the more unusual Patek Philippe offerings is a boxed-set of four limited-edition **Ref. 5075** watches with cloisonné polychrome dials, each depicting a vividly-hued Bird of Paradise (pictured at left; estimate: \$150,000-250,000 for the set). Manufactured in 2002, the *Birds* series was one of several set patterns released on a yearly basis for the reference. Other examples included *Flowers* (2001) and *Middle Ages* (2002). Offered with a custom fitted box and original certificates, the upcoming sale marks the first time a full set

from this charming *Birds* series has ever been offered at auction.

WATCHES WITH CELEBRITY PROVENANCE

Fine wristwatches once owned by much-loved celebrities and important historical figures have enduring appeal for collectors, who value these timepieces as much for their quality as for their exceptional provenance. The upcoming sale include three intriguing examples of this type, led by the **Gene Autry Patek Philippe**, a very fine and rare 18k gold Ref. 1518 manufactured in 1948 and fitted with a custom-made bracelet bearing the beloved entertainer's signature (pictured at right; estimate: \$250,000-350,000). During his long career, Autry starred in over 90 feature films and is credited with popularizing the musical Western. He remains the only entertainer to have all five stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one each for radio,



recording, motion pictures, TV and live theatre. The watch was a gift from Gene and Jackie Autry to their dear friends Monte and Joanne Hale, who co-founded the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum (now known as the Autry National Center) in 1988. Hale, a fellow singer and actor, was known as the last of the great singing cowboys. In 2004, his movie career was honored with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The watch remained in the Hale's personal collection until his death in March 2009.

Also featured in the sale is the **Roy Rogers Rolex**, a stainless steel triple calendar chronograph Ref. 6036 manufactured *circa* 1952 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000). Consigned from the estate of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, this well-worn watch was a favorite of the so-called "King of Cowboys" who starred in over 100 films and remains one of the most enduring icons of American culture.

As a fitting grand finale to the sale, Christie's will offer the **Howard Hughes Patek Philippe**, Ref. 1463, a rare 18k gold chronograph watch with Breguet numerals manufactured in 1949 (pictured at right; estimate: \$150,000-200,000). The watch was a gift from the wealthy but famously paranoid Hughes to his private investigator Donald Woolbright, who completed a number of surveillance assignments for the business mogul during the mid-1960s, including investigations of Hughes' own employees. As thanks for a particularly extensive surveillance assignment, Hughes gave Woolbright this exceptional Patek Philippe watch, along with a personal note inscribed "From my wrist to yours, very pleased with your results. Many thanks, Howard". The upcoming sale marks the first time this intriguing item has ever been offered at auction.



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rounding out the sale are numerous examples of vintage and modern watches from top manufacturers, including **Audemars Piguet**, **Parmigiani Fleurier**, **A. Lange & Söhne**, **Ulysse Nardin**, and Patek Philippe, among others. Highlights include:

	Patek Philippe. A very fine and rare 18k gold openface minute repeating perpetual calendar split-seconds chronograph keyless lever pocket watch with moon phases. Manufactured in 1915 Estimate: \$80,000 - 120,000
	Patek Philippe Ref. 1463. This visually stunning chronograph wristwatch is one of only 50 known versions in pink gold of this reference, which was manufactured only between 1940 and 1969. The custom pink dial, fitted at the request of the original owner, makes this a great rarity on the market. Manufactured in 1954 Estimate: \$150,000 - \$200,000

	Parmigiani Fleurier Model No. 10855. This rare and important skeletonized 18K white gold minute-repeating tourbillon wristwatch features the “Toric Westminster”, a true grand complication and one of Parmigiani’s ultimate creations. Manufactured circa 2006 Estimate: \$120,000 - \$180,000
	Ulysse Nardin Ref. 701-22. A fine and rare 18k gold minute-repeating limited edition watch with applied gilt Jacquemarts on a translucent blue enamel dial Manufactured circa 2004 Estimate: \$35,000-45,000
	Patek-Philippe Ladies Ref 4981. An auction first – the “Gemma” model in 18k white gold, diamond and mother-of-pearl. Manufactured <i>circa</i> 2005 Estimate: \$12,000-18,000

*The complete e-catalogue for this sale is viewable online at
www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?saleid=22633*

Auction: *Important Watches Featuring the Leo Collection*
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

June 16 at 10am & 2pm
June 12-15, 2010

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 billion. 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 450 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 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More 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. *All auction sales figures include premium.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

