

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S

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A MILLIONAIRE WEEK OF AUCTIONS

**CHRISTIE'S GENEVA TOTALS
MORE THAN
\$ 108 MILLION IN 3 DAYS**



▲ François Curiel, *President of Christie's Switzerland*, selling a record-breaking heart-shaped diamond in Geneva on May 18

NEW SENSATIONAL RECORD PRICES ACHIEVED FOR IMPORTANT WATCHES FINE WINES MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

Geneva - Christie's, the world's leading auctioneers, announce that their spring auctions in Geneva achieved a combined total of US\$ 108,783,133.

François Curiel, *President of Christie's Switzerland*:

"The week of May jewellery, watches and wine sales in Geneva was marked by strong bidding with moments of passionate enthusiasm. This was exemplified by a 1942 steel watch by Rolex fetching more than \$1M and an antique Imperial Mughal spinel necklace realising more than \$5M. While the 'blue chip' diamonds and coloured diamonds were in great demand, a 130 ct Burmese sapphire stole the show at \$7.1M. Forty-two years after our first sale in Switzerland, Geneva remains a vital, specialised auction centre in today's global market."

IMPORTANT WATCHES INCLUDING A CONNOISSEUR'S VISION PART IV 16 MAY 2011

Total: US\$ 26,331,962

Reaffirming Christie's absolute leadership in the international watch area, Geneva's sale of *Important Watches including A Connoisseur's Vision Part IV* achieved a blockbuster total of US\$ 26,331,962 (SFr. 23,427,013 / € 18,647,902), an increase of 25% over last May's auction total in Geneva.

This is one of the highest results ever realized in the history of Christie's watch sales and leads the auction series dedicated to the category in Geneva this spring.

Aurel Bacs, International Head of the Watch Department: *"The international community of watch collectors responded enthusiastically to a premium selection of rare wristwatches and pocket watches hand-selected by Christie's team of specialists for our spring Geneva sale. The results confirm once again that Christie's is the auction house of choice for both buyers and sellers of the rarest and most important watches. The sale was characterized by strong bidding from the international trade, but dominated by private collectors and museums around the world. Eight different buyers secured the top ten lots of the sale – a sign of the immense depth of interest in this category. The sale was notable for its spectacular moments – for the first time ever at auction, a Rolex watch surpassed the \$1 million mark with the ultra-rare reference 4113 selling to a private collector for over \$1.1 million."*



Top Lot:

Patek Philippe. An extremely fine, rare and possibly unique white gold cushion-shaped single button chronograph wristwatch with vertically positioned register and Breguet numerals, manufactured in 1928

Estimate: US\$ 1,600,000-2,600,000

Sold for: US\$ 3,636,140

WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR ANY SIMPLE CHRONOGRAPH WRISTWATCH AT AUCTION

Illustrated left

FINE WINES 17 MAY 2011

Total: US\$ 3,416,677

Christie's sale of fine wines in Geneva totaled US\$ 3.4 million, +80% versus May 2010 results. Selling for more than \$ 123,000, a bottle of Romanée-Conti 1945 set a new world record price for any 75cl. bottle of red Burgundy sold at auction.

Michael Ganne, Head of Christie's Geneva Wine Sales: *"Christie's auction of Fine Wines in Geneva achieved a total of US\$3.4 million, an 80% increase over last May results. 110 buyers from five continents purchased more than 900 lots, producing strong prices. We are especially proud to announce that a bottle of the legendary Romanée-Conti Vintage 1945 sold to an American private collector for US\$123,889, a new world record price for a 75cl. red Burgundy at auction. This bottle will certainly remain mythical for many decades also because of its vintage - which marked the end of a terrible war; of its contents - the last of the great wines produced from the prephylloxera (ungrafted) vines which made up the 1,85 ha vineyard of Romanée-Conti; and of its very limited quantity - with only approximately 600 bottles produced".*

Top Lot:

A bottle of Romanée-Conti 1945

Estimate: US\$ 60,000-80,000

Sold for: US\$ 123,889

WORLD AUCTION RECORD PRICE FOR A 75CL. BOTTLE OF RED BURGUNDY

Illustrated right



MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

18 MAY 2011

Total: US\$ 78,693,041

Jean-Marc Lunel, Head of the Jewellery Department, Christie's Geneva:

“Quite exceptional prices were achieved at the May 18 auction in Geneva. An antique spinel necklace engraved with the names of the most prominent Mughal Emperors, created a world record price for any Indian jewel at auction selling for more than \$5 million. A Burmese sapphire of 130 cts also made a world record price of \$7M. The market is particularly keen to buy quality diamonds in all sizes and colours, exemplified by a 56 ct heart-shaped diamond which brought more than \$10M in the most successful Christie's jewellery sale ever held in Geneva. We now look forward to our jewellery auctions in Hong Kong, Paris, London and Milan over the next month”.



Top Lot:

A heart-shaped D colour, internally flawless, type IIa diamond of 56.15 cts

Estimate: US\$ 9,000,000-12,000,000

Sold for: US\$ 10,946,422

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR ANY HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND (US\$ 195,000 per ct.)

Illustrated above right

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Zurich, 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.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

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