

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- 20 May 2013

## ***THUNDERBALL***

### **JAMES BOND'S BREITLING TOP TIME DISCOVERED AT A CAR BOOT SALE FOR £25**



Image courtesy of Allstar/United Artists

**South Kensington, London** – Christie's is pleased to present the first ever watch specially adapted for James Bond in the *Pop Culture* sale on 26 June 2013. The Breitling Top Time, worn by Sean Connery during 007's mission to find two NATO atomic bombs stolen by SPECTRE in the 1965 movie *Thunderball*, was recently bought for £25 at a car boot sale and is estimated to realise between £40,000 and £60,000 (*illustrated above*). It was the first watch to be modified by the famous Q Branch and is equipped with a 'Geiger counter' which in the film detects the emission of nuclear radiation. Made by Breitling in 1962 it was adapted by the James Bond art department and was the only example produced for the movie. This is a great opportunity for collectors to acquire a unique piece of James Bond memorabilia.

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## Notes to Editors:

In October 2012 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Bond on film, Christie's and EON Productions presented *50 Years of James Bond – The Auction* which realised a total of £1,641,350 / \$2,644,442 / €2,034,999. Proceeds were donated to twelve selected charities including UNICEF, Barnardo's, Women for Women, Parkinson's UK, ChildLine and others.

### Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from under £1,000. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others. In 2012 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the third consecutive year with sales of £139.4 million / \$223.1 million having welcomed a 10% growth in registered bidders and a 20% increase (£ / \$) in total sales.

### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives in Moscow, Baku, Beijing, Mumbai, Delhi, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha 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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