CHRISTIE'S

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF STAND-ALONE WATCH SALES AT CHRISTIE'S

CHRISTIE'S DUBAI TO OPEN THE WATCH AUCTION SEASON 2015

Dubai – Throughout 2015 Christie's is proud to celebrate 55 years of stand-alone watch sales. The international department's first sale of the year will be in Dubai, when Christie's will offer 185 watches. This is the largest offering of any watch sale in the Middle East and will take place on the night of 19th of March at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel. Amongst the selected lots features a Patek Philippe - ref 5104 - with an estimate of $450,000-650,000, which is the most valuable estimate ever put against a watch offered in Dubai.

The sale will include watches from all major firms starting with Audemars Piguet and ending with Zodiac - a total of 48 watchmakers from around the world will be represented in this sale and the most vintage watch dates from 1947 and the most modern watch from 2013 – 66 years of watchmaking to be discovered at Christie's.

This is the first sale put together by Christie's new regional specialist Rémy Julia, who has taken the role following the promotion of Frederic Watrelot to head of watch sales in Asia. Rémy came to Christie's with more than 10 years of experience working with luxury brands in brand management and business development roles in the Middle East and India.

TOP LOT

The top lot (illustrated above) of the sale is a Patek Philippe, ref 5104P, made in 2009 and sold from a distinguished private collection and is one of less than 6 examples to have come up for auction to date, underlining once again the true exclusivity of the brand. Patek Philippe has created a prestigious timepiece that perhaps more than any other reflects the underlying values of the last family-owned watchmaking company in Geneva: innovation and tradition; aesthetics and technology; complexity and simplicity. For the first time a Grande Complication wristwatch crafted by Patek Philippe affords more

than a caseback view of the mechanical marvels inside. The 5104 features a transparent dial that reveals the normally concealed complex mechanisms on the front. It takes two years just to craft the parts, assemble the movement and adjust its rate to perfection, meaning that the Geneva based workshop can only produce 8-10 of these rare watches a year (estimate: $450,000-650,000).

ULTIMATE COMPLICATIONS

Beside the Patek Philippe ref 5401P the sale offers ref 5951P by the same house, an extremely fine and rare platinum cushion-shaped perpetual calendar single button split second chronograph wristwatch, made circa 2011. Reference 5951P was launched at Baselworld fair in 2010. The workshop in Geneva succeeded in designing a calendar module with a day and night display that indicates the date, day, month, leap year cycle and moon phase measuring only 2.05mm from top to bottom. Together with the basic movement, this adds up to an overall height of just 7.3mm, making ref 5951P the thinnest rattrap ante chronograph with perpetual calendar ever crafted by Patek Philippe. The art deco styling on the case is an additional feature (estimate: $300,000-500,000).

The Breguet, ref 3757 is another "classic complications model" made in 2002 with a fine and rare 18k gold perpetual calendar tourbillon movement. Also including a retrograde date and leap year indication, it will be offered with an estimate of $60,000-80,000.

Breguet was founded in Paris in 1775 by its namesake, Abraham Louis Breguet. Not only did Breguet quickly establish himself as a well-respected watchmaker, but he was an innovator and introduced a number of advancements to the field of horology, the most significant of which was the tourbillon. People were so taken with Breguet's creations that he was even commissioned by Marie Antoinette to make the most complicated watch for the time, which included every known timekeeping function. While the level of complication for timepieces has certainly evolved since then, Breguet has always had a loyal following

among collectors, and today these watches are easily recognized by their distinctive coin-edged bands and blue steel hands.

MODERN MASTERS

The majority of the piecec in the sale represent the modern masters - the vintage trophies of the future. Here you will find the ref. 160.029, the Lange 1 Model by A. Lange & Söhne, made in 2008 (estimate: $25,000-35,000) and the Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Offshore Grand Prix limited edition model, an oversized platinum and ceramic chronograph wristwatch. Made in 2010, it is one of only 75 ever made (estimate: $50,000-80,000). From another limited edition comes C1 Tourbillon Gravity Model made by Concord circa 2008 and number 1 out of 10 (estimate: $35,000-55,000).

# # #

Notes to editors:

First watch sold at Christie's was on 5 Dec 1766 – a gold watch sold for £9-7s-6d (approx. £1,138) to Mr. Lloyd sold by James Christie in his ever first sale.
First stand-alone watch sale in London was held on 14 June 1960
First stand-alone watch sale in Geneva was held on 29 April 1975
First stand- alone watch sale in Dubai was held on 29 October 2013

CHRISTIE'S SALES
- Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art: Wednesday, 18 March 2015, at 7.00pm
- Important Watch sale: Thursday 19 March 2015, at 7.00pm
- Venue: the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel

PRESS CONFERENCE AND VIEWING TIMES
- Press Conference and Viewing: Sunday, 15 March, at 10.00am
- Viewing is open to the public
Sunday 15 March:	2pm to 10pm
Monday 16 March:	11am to 6pm
Tuesday 17 March:	11am to 6pm
Wednesday 18 March:	10am to 10pm
Thursday 19 March:	10am to 4pm
- Venue: the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel

SPRING CALENDAR – IMPORTANT WATCHES AT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's Dubai	19 March 2015
Christie's Geneva	11 May 2015
Christie's Hong Kong	03 June 2015
Christie's New York	17 June 2015

PRESS CONTACTS:

Alexandra Kindermann| +41 44 268 1019 |akindermann@christies.com
Lydia Cook | +971 4 369 3575| lydia.cook@theportsmouthgroup.com
Ibrahim Asran | +971 4 369 3575| ibrahim.asran@theportsmouthgroup.com