

CHRISTIE'S

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ICONS OF WATCH MAKING **TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA** **ON 11 NOVEMBER 2013**



Patek Philippe

An exceptionally rare pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases, ref. 2499 manufactured in 1957
Estimate: SFr./US\$1,000,000-1,500,000

Geneva - On 11 November, Christie's Geneva will offer at auction a phenomenal array of period, vintage and contemporary timepieces selected according to the firm's prerogative to only bring out top quality collector's watches. Possibly one of the best curated watch sales ever, it will feature the rarest examples in exceptional condition to appeal to the most demanding international connoisseurs.

Comprising 350 lots overall, the sale is led by an exceptionally rare pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases, ref. 2499, manufactured by Patek Philippe in 1957 (estimate: SFr./US\$ 1,000,000-1,500,000; *illustrated above left*).

With estimates ranging from US\$1,500 to more than US\$1 million, the sale is estimated to fetch a total in excess of US\$ 15 million.

Aurel Bacs, International Head of Christie's Watch Department, commented: *"This autumn Christie's Geneva auctions of Important Watches bring together some of the most iconic Patek Philippe models, including chronographs, perpetual calendars, minute-repeaters and travel-time, to name but a few. I am proud that Christie's was entrusted with the consignment of such historic pieces, many of which are offered from the families of their original owners and come to the market for the first time ever"*.



Patek Philippe

An extremely rare gold split seconds chronograph wristwatch with Breguet numerals, ref. 1563 manufactured in 1947
Estimate: SFr./US\$800,000-1,400,000

HISTORICAL PATEK PHILIPPE COMPLICATED WRISTWATCHES

The most extraordinary section of Christie's Geneva auction is dedicated to Patek Philippe vintage complicated wristwatches, considered to be the strong-hold of Christie's international watch department. Constituting approximately one third of the sale, the examples on offer include perpetual calendar wristwatches with chronograph (references 1518 and 2499), perpetual calendar (references 1526, 2497, 2438/1 and 3448), chronographs (references 130, 530 and 1463), split-seconds chronographs (references 1436 and 1563), a travel time ref. 2597, and a minute repeater ref. 2524/1.

Highlighting this section is a 1957 Patek Philippe **ref. 2499 second series in pink gold**, which comes to the market for the second time since its creation and has been consigned from a distinguished private collection (*illustrated on page 1, top left*; estimate: SFr./US\$1,000,000-1,500,000). Only five other examples of this iconic model in the hyper-rare pink gold second series are known to date. Preserved in time-warp condition, this particular example combines a virtually unpolished case with a sharp definition as crisp as when the watch left the manufacturer nearly 60 years ago. A beautifully ivory-coloured patina covers the watch dial simply making it a collector's dream.

Another star of the sale is an exclusive and historically important **yellow gold split seconds chronograph ref.1563** manufactured by Patek Philippe in 1947 (*illustrated on page 1, below right*). Only 3 examples of this model are recorded to exist, all of which were made as special orders for the most prominent clients of the time. Originally created for jazz legend Duke Ellington, one of them is permanently exhibited in the Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva. Equally important, this example is fitted with an extremely exclusive dial design featuring luminescent Breguet numerals (estimate: SFr./US\$800,000-1,400,000).

Aurel Bacs, International Head of Christie's Watch Department: *"It is a privilege to be able to offer the unique reference 1563, one of the rarest and most iconic models ever created by Patek Philippe. I was lucky enough to sell both of the other two known examples of this reference, including the watch previously owned by Duke Ellington which now forms part of the collection of the Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva."*

THE BEST VINTAGE TIMEPIECES BY ROLEX*



To follow on the highly anticipated evening auction entitled [Rolex Daytona | Lesson ONE](#), which will be held on 10 November to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the mythical Daytona model, a further selection of more than 100 Rolex vintage wristwatches will be offered at Christie's Geneva various owners sale on 11 November. The landmark examples sourced by the Christie's Team of specialists beautifully illustrate the glorious history of the crowned house.

Articulated in two sub-categories respectively dedicated to sports and tool watches, this section includes some of the most legendary vintage models such as Submariner, Sea-Dweller, GMT-Master, Milgauss and Explorer.

The 'civilian' selection is led by two superb examples of **Rolex's most coveted reference: the 6062** - the only Oyster model ever made by Rolex featuring a full calendar and phases of the moon. A 1952 stunning yellow gold example displaying an attractive star dial alongside an extremely rare vintage gold bracelet, widely illustrated and described in the

most prominent Rolex literature, comes from a distinguished private collector (estimate: SFr./US\$250,000-400,000; *illustrated left*).

Never seen on the auction market before and offered in unrestored, original conditions, a 1953 stainless version of the same model comes from an important European collection (estimate: SFr./US\$220,000-320,000; *illustrated right*).



Furthermore, the Rolex section includes **Part of II of the Palladio Collection**. Amassed over 25 years of passionate collecting by a European architect who focused on stainless steel Rolex chronographs, Part I was successfully offered at Christie's Geneva in May 2013 with many watches sold above estimates demonstrating the collector's exquisite taste and vision.

**Christie's holds the world record for any Rolex wristwatch sold at auction.*

PERIOD ENAMELLED POCKET WATCHES & RARE BREGUET TIMEPIECES

Amongst the carefully selected group of period pocket watches is a sumptuous gold, enamel and pearl-set duplex watch made around 1820 for the Chinese market by the renowned manufacture **Bovet**. The delicately painted enamel miniature scene is attributed to the celebrated enamellist Jean-François-Victor Dupont (estimate: SFr./US\$90,000-140,000; *illustrated right*).

Furthermore, Christie's November sale presents an attractive selection of rare timepieces made between 1802 and 1833 by Breguet, spanning three generations of the celebrated French manufacturers. This section is highlighted by **Abraham-Louis Breguet's very first watch**, featuring his signature form of free escapement, the *échappement naturel*, a revolutionary device developed to

achieve very high precision rates without requiring lubrication. One of the rarest escapements ever created, it has fascinated the aficionados of finest horology ever since. The present example was ordered by the Duke of Infantado in a letter dated March 1802 and its construction took nearly four years involving highly expensive development work (estimate: SFr./US\$300,000-500,000).

Other examples include **one of Breguet's few 'Royal Watches'** ever to appear in public which was purchased in 1825 by HRM George IV, King of the United Kingdom (estimate: SFr./US\$80,000-120,000; *illustrated left*), a finely enameled quarter repeating 'cabriolet' watch made for the Turkish market in 1819 (estimate: SFr./US\$40,000-60,000), and one of the very first watches with keyless winding and hand-setting which was sold by Breguet in 1833 (estimate: SFr./US\$15,000-25,000).



CONTEMPORARY LIMITED EDITION WRISTWATCHES

The art of horology never stops and following the new millennium many distinguished manufacturers have continued to make ingenious and highly desirable collector's watches. Christie's is therefore committed to nurturing this collecting field and is proud to offer an exquisite array of ultra-rare contemporary masterpieces. Amongst the highlights of this section, and following the impressive performance of the stainless steel *Lange 1* model sold in Spring, Christie's Geneva has been entrusted with the sale of a most likely unique example of double split seconds flyback chronograph cased in stainless steel, **ref. 404.035X by A. Lange & Söhne**. This watch was never offered at auction before and was a special order granted only once. Estimated at SFr./US\$120,000-180,000, it is considered as one of the ultimate A. Lange & Söhne collector's models (*illustrated right*).

Another treat for the lovers of contemporary horology is the spectacular platinum **Vingt-8 by Kari Voutilainen** (*illustrated on the last page, bottom right*; estimate: SFr./US\$40,000-60,000). It is only the second time a watch made by this famous watch-maker comes to the auction block, the first having been sold at Christie's Honk Kong last May.





Numerous **rare complications by Patek Philippe** will also be on offer, such as - for the first time ever - a complete set of legendary chronographs ref. 5070 (platinum, yellow, pink and white gold), a complete set of the impossible-to-find 'Advanced Research' model (references 5250, 5350, 5450 and 5550), two examples of ref. 5970 and the great classic minute repeating, ref. 3979, which was launched in 1989 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Patek Philippe (estimate: SFr./US\$200,000-300,000; *illustrated left*).

Other distinguished manufactures featured in this section include Breguet, Audemars Piguet, Cartier, F.P. Journe and Panerai, amongst others.

IMPORTANT WATCHES

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, Geneva
11 November 2013

AUCTIONS:

Monday 11 November 2013

10am (lots 51-193) | 3pm (lots 194-406)

VIEWINGS:

Friday 8 November

10am-6pm

Saturday 9 November

10am-7pm

Sunday 10 November

By appointment only | +41 22 319 1724



Kari Voutilainen

A rare platinum wristwatch, *Vingt-8* model, no. 28-019
Manufactured in 2011; estimate: SFr./US\$40,000-60,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's 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 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

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