

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | HONG KONG | 5 MAY 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Time at Its Most Precious

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 26 May 2023

Live Auction *Important Watches* - Various Owners | 165 lots | low estimate HK\$ 188 million

Plus a very unique piece being offered in the *20th/21st Century Art Evening Sale*, 28 May 2023



Left: A possibly unique Audemars Piguet Ref. 25630 chronograph pocket watch grand complication, numbered 001, 18k gold and diamond-set, with a minute repeating perpetual calendar, split seconds, leap year indicator and moon phases. (Est: HK\$550,000-1,100,000)

Right: Manufactured in 1888, this remarkable Patek Philippe miniature minute repeater pocket watch, in 18k gold, with enamel dial, movement no. 80'216, has been identified as the smallest known Patek Philippe Minute Repeater, and is possibly the smallest ever made. (Est. HK\$800,000-2,400,000)

Hong Kong, 5 May 2023 – The Hong Kong *Important Watches* Sale, taking place on **26 May**, will feature remarkable examples from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries that are as captivating as they are extraordinary and unique.

This Live auction showcases two spectacular pocket watch masterpieces: an **Audemars Piguet Ref. 25630 'Grand Complication'** with a **pavé diamond-set dial**, and the oldest known **Patek Philippe miniature watch** with a horological complication from the storied Geneva Maison, possibly the smallest ever made.



Lot 2303 – A significant piece of **Audemars Piguet** history, this resplendent Ref. 25630 Grande Complication with pavé diamond-set dial is numbered '001' and is believed to have been created as a one-off. According to the Audemars Piguet Archives the movement ébauche was purchased from LeCoultre & Cie in 1973, although it likely dates back to the 1930s, one of the 'golden ages' of the Grand Complication. The watch was completed by Audemars Piguet as calibre 'JSMCCRQV'.
(Est: HK\$550,000-1,100,000)



Lot 2306 – This remarkable miniature minute repeater, with a diameter of 24.5 mm, is the smallest known to have been made by **Patek Philippe** and possibly the smallest ever created by the Maison. This watch is entirely new to the market and has remained hidden from the public for 135 years, since its manufacture in 1888. An extremely exciting discovery and a fresh addition to the known historic 19th-century complicated watches of Patek Philippe, it is most aptly described in the words of the former Director of the Patek Philippe Museum, Arnaud Tellier: "*This miniature watch is one of Patek Philippe's greatest achievements of the 19th century. It was and remains one of the masterpieces of the Genevan manufacture!*"
(Est: HK\$800,000-2,400,000)

Furthermore, Christie's Hong Kong is proud to present a **unique piece in its 20th/21st Century Art Evening Sale on 28 May**. This live auction of seminal works by leading masters of the modern era as well as contemporary luminaries and emerging artists from around the world will also include the most valuable timepiece ever offered in Christie's Hong Kong auction room, a **Patek Philippe Ref. 2523J 'Dual Crown World Time'** featuring a map of **North America** on its cloisonné enamel dial. Crafted in 1955, this exquisite timepiece has been estimated at HK\$55 million-120 million.



Patek Philippe Ref. 2523J 'Dual Crown World Time' with cloisonné enamel dial depicting a map of North America.

PRESS MATERIAL: [link](#)

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- Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019). Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the ground-breaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's Everydays](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.
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