

CHRISTIE'S

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THE CHAMPION OF ALL COLLECTIONS

The journey of The Champion Collection, one of the most valuable and important single-owner collections to be brought to auction globally, continues in 2022

Christie's Hong Kong is honoured to present a further series of 5 exciting, carefully curated and themed watch auctions from this incredible collection.

SPRING-SUMMER 2022

THE CHAMPION COLLECTION PART II: 'SPORT ELEGANCE'

Online Sale | 6 – 20 April 2022 | 120+ lots | Total low estimate: HK\$ 12 million

THE CHAMPION COLLECTION PART III: 'THE ARTISTRY OF COMPLICATIONS'

AND

IMPORTANT WATCHES SALE

Live Sale - Single Owner | 24 May 2022 | 73 lots | Total low estimate: HK\$ 80 million

Live Sale - Various Owners | 24 May 2022 | 120+ lots | Total low estimate: HK\$ 80 million



Hong Kong, 24 March 2022 – Following The Champion Collection Part I held last November, Christie's Hong Kong is thrilled to pursue The Champion Collection journey throughout this year, spanning 2 live and 3 online sales from April through to December.

The Champion Collection

In total, around 450 modern and contemporary significant and iconic timepieces by major watch brands including Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, Rolex, Panerai, IWC and Vacheron Constantin constitute this marvellous collection that was formed over 20 years by a prominent private collector whose discernment, taste and deep appreciation of the highest level of horology can now be shared with collectors worldwide.



Alexander Bigler, Vice-President & Head of Watches Christie's Asia Pacific, shared: *"Christie's Watches Hong Kong is opening the 2022 Spring Season with 'Sport Elegance' – a single-owner sale with some of the hottest 'sport chic' references with a selection comprising more than 120 lots in the stratosphere of desirability- forms Part II of The Champion Collection, one of the most valuable and important collections to come to auction globally, and with further sales to follow. Christie's Watches Hong Kong is privileged to bring this opus of around 450 exceptional contemporary treasures to the world throughout 2022. Be prepared for a blockbuster season with Christie's Watches live and online auctions."*

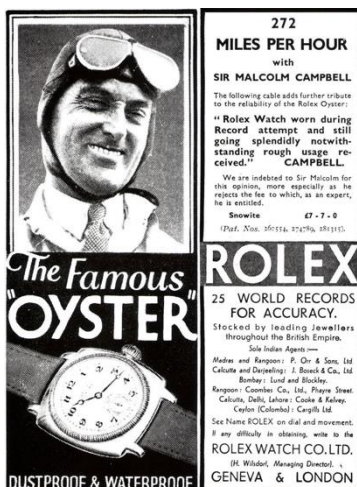
This year, the kick off will be on **6 April** with **The Champion Collection Part II: 'Sport Elegance'**, a single-owner **online sale** with 120+ lots representing 15 iconic brands, led by new, contemporary watches, many of which are hard to find in the retail market. Among these highly sought-after pieces: a **Rolex Daytona Ref. 116506 in platinum with an ice-blue dial**, a **Rolex GMT Master II Ref. 126755SARU with diamond-set bezel and lugs**, and the coveted **Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Self-winding Ref. 15400OR**.



Rolex Daytona Ref. 116506 in platinum with ice-blue dial. The story of the Rolex Daytona is closely linked to that of motor sports, yet the origins of the name date back to long before the watch became the iconic three-counter chronograph we think of today. One of the most popular and successful race car drivers of his day, Sir Malcolm Campbell was known as the "King of Speed", and was also a Rolex Ambassador. He set no fewer than five World Land Speed Records at Daytona Beach, the fastest in 1935 behind the wheel of Bluebird with a Rolex Oyster on his wrist. It would be close to another thirty years before the legendary speedway in Florida would be reconnected to Rolex – on the now equally legendary Daytona.

In 1963 came the Rolex Chronograph reference 6239 with a tachometer scale engraved on the bezel to enhance the readability of the dial. It was in 1965 that 'Daytona' first appeared on the dial – of the reference 6239. Even more interestingly, the Daytona wasn't a runaway success back then, even with celebrities like Paul Newman, already a recognised – and very competitive – race car driver, endorsing it. Anonymity didn't last long and an update was released in 1988 with a modified automatic Zenith "El Primero" movement – as the reference 16520 in steel, 16523 in steel and gold, and 16528 in yellow gold.

The main difference was the case size of 40mm, 3mm larger than its predecessor, and a sapphire crystal replaced the Plexiglas one. Limited supply increased desirability, further cementing the model's cult status. By 2000, as Rolex started to use an in-house movement on the new 116500 series, it remained the most sought-after model.



Sir Malcolm Campbell – the racer, his car and his watch – the origins of 'Daytona'.

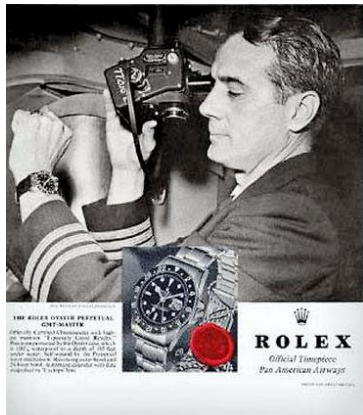


In 2013, the Daytona Cosmograph Platinum (reference 116506) was created by Rolex to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its most celebrated watch. Finally, in 2016, the steel Daytona was refreshed with a new black ceramic bezel on the 116500LN series. With each release, the Daytona reinforces its status of cult sport watch, certainly the most desired sports watch in the world.

(Est: HK\$700,000-1,400,000)



Rolex GMT Master II Ref. 126755SARU. The history of the Rolex GMT-Master debuted with a collaboration with the now defunct Pan American Airways: the first model was released in 1954-1955 and issued to the cockpit crew on long-haul flights. The major feature was the dedicated hour hand for indicating Greenwich Mean Time (hence “GMT”) along with local time, with the rotatable red & blue (hence “Pepsi”) bezel for night and day over a 24-hour period. The model quickly gained in popularity as a pilot’s watch, and the rest is history.



The Rolex GMT master was the prized perk of Pan Am pilots back in the day

Various upgrades and metal variations were released over the years, such as bi-colour steel and yellow gold, full gold, with the steel versions remaining the most famous. The nickname depends on the bezel: “Coke” for the red & black version, a model that has since been discontinued; “Pepsi” for the red & blue bezel; and “Batman” for the blue & black one. The present reference is the GMT Master II – 126755SARU in rose gold. Its Oyster monobloc case is set with brilliant-cut diamonds, the eye-catching bezel with baguette sapphires and baguette rubies to denote day and night, and baguette diamonds representing the hour markers. This surrounds a dial with the date window at 3 o’clock and indexes in gold with luminescent coating as well as the central hands of hours – minutes – seconds – GMT. The self-winding movement has a power-reserve of 48-hours and is known to be one of the most efficient. It is perfectly protected by the gold monobloc case. A full Oyster bracelet in rose gold with Oysterlock clasp keeps this extremely limited timepiece snug around the wrist.

(Est: HK\$600,000-1,200,000)



Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Self-winding Ref. 15400OR. The Chinese ideogram for ‘Crisis’ consists of two characters: ‘Danger’ and ‘Opportunity’. If there was one for the language of horology, it would be a stylised Royal Oak. The danger: a tsunami of incredibly inexpensive Quartz watches made in Asia that appeared in the early 1970s and threatened to wipe out the Swiss watch industry. The opportunity: legend-making designer Gerald Genta. The result: in 1972, Audemars Piguet introduced a solid stainless-steel sport luxury watch, inspired by a deep-sea-diving helmet, with an octagonal bezel, visible mounting screws, a large 39mm case with an integrated bracelet.



The original sketch of the legendary watch and its legendary designer, Gerald Genta,



Within 2-3 years, Audemars Piguet, barely able to keep up with demand, had established a new segment of the sports luxury watch.

Reference 5402, known as the “Royal Oak A series”, was the first with a thin automatic calibre 2121 movement. The level of finishing was remarkable. So was the price: a similar Rolex retailed for a 10th of the price of a Royal Oak.

The present 18k pink gold example displays a beautiful white dial with a *Grande Tapisserie* pattern. Around it, the pink gold indexes as well as the hours & minutes hands with luminescent coating. The date window is located at 3 o'clock. The AP logo is displayed at 12 o'clock also in gold. The automatic movement is visible through the sapphire case back. The bracelet of this very exclusive timepiece is solid rose gold.

(Est: HK\$400,000-800,000)

The Spring-Summer season continues with a Single-Owner Sale **The Champion Collection Part III: 'The Artistry of Complications'**, taking place on **24 May** and consisting of 73 lots with a low estimate of 80M HKD, and a Various Owner Sale **"Important Watches"**, a second **live sale** taking place on **24 May**, consisting of 120+ lots with a low estimate of HK\$ 80 million.

Christie's Watches Hong Kong has exciting events in store throughout the second half of 2022 too: from **The Champion Collection Part IV: 'The Panerai Encyclopedia: Chapter I'** with 85 Panerai timepieces, and **The Champion Collection Part V: 'The Panerai Encyclopedia: Final Chapter'** with 83 Panerai highly sought-after timepieces coming to auction **online**.

Concluding the year will be a Single-Owner **live sale** presenting the series finale, **The Champion Collection Part VI: 'The Finest Watchmaking'**, led by 83 timepieces including stunning Patek Philippe and Vacheron Constantin enamel watches.

Sale	Channel	Start Date	End Date
The Champion Collection Part II: 'Sport Elegance'	Online	April 6 th	April 20 th
The Champion Collection Part III: 'The Artistry of Complications'	Live	May 24 th	May 24 th
Important Watches	Live	May 24 th	May 24 th
The Champion Collection Part IV: 'The Panerai Encyclopedia: Chapter I'	Online	July	July
The Champion Collection Part V: 'The Panerai Encyclopedia: Final Chapter'	Online	November	November
The Champion Collection Part VI: 'The Finest Watchmaking'	Live	November	November

PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

PRESS CONTACTS**289 CONSULTING PR TEAM:****Marine Lemonnier-Brennan**marine.lemonnier@289consulting.com

+41 79 389 67 62

Aude Campanelliaude.campanelli@289consulting.com

+41 78 637 16 91

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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. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's Salvador Mundi, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), 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.

Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's Everydays, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.

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