

PRESS RELEASE

Phillips Announces Highlights from The Hong Kong Watch Auction XVIII

Live Auction on 24-25 May Led by a Patek Philippe Nautilus ref. 3700/1 Made for the Sultan of Oman

Other Highlights Include Important Timepieces from Patek Philippe, Rolex, F.P.Journe, Richard Mille and De Bethune



Patek Philippe, ref. 3700/1 in white gold, retailed by Asprey, made for the Sultan of Oman, circa 1978
Estimate: HK\$4,000,000 - 8,000,000/ US\$500,000-1,000,000



Patek Philippe, ref.3800/1 in pink gold, circa 1990
Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 - 4,000,000/ US\$250,000-500,000

HONG KONG – 25 APRIL 2024 – Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo is pleased to release a selection of highlights from [The Hong Kong Watch Auction XVIII](#). Taking place on 24-25 May at the company's Asia headquarters in the West Kowloon Cultural District, the sale will present a breadth of important timepieces by leading brands and independent makers that capture the illustrious history of watchmaking, along with its innovative approach. Highlights of the auction include the Patek Philippe ref. 3700/1 in white gold made for the Sultan of Oman, a rare and stunning Patek Philippe ref. 1463 "Tasti Tondi", a Rolex ref.6263 "Paul Newman Panda MK 2" which includes the original certificate and presentation box, as well as De Bethune's DB28 Kind of Blue. Prior to the auction, highlights from the sale will embark on an international tour to Singapore, Taipei, and Geneva.

Thomas Perazzi, Head of Watches Asia, and **Gertrude Wong, Head of Sale**, jointly said, "We believe timepieces offered in our upcoming Hong Kong Watch Auction XVIII will take collectors on an exhilarating journey of horological discovery with the modern and vintage pieces that our team of specialists has assembled. Spanning wristwatches, pocket watches, and clocks from Swiss and British makers, this season's auction presents some of today's most

coveted watches that were carefully selected for their quality, importance and enduring appeal. We look forward to welcoming collectors into our international tours to see these exciting timepieces in person.”

Important Patek Philippe Nautilus

Leading this season’s sale is the Patek Philippe ref. 3700/1 (illustrated page 1) with an immense historical significance, royal provenance, and utmost rarity, making it one of the most coveted examples of a Nautilus ever offered at auction. Amongst its many virtues, its bold, white Khanjar at six o’clock makes it an extraordinary watch of Omani royal provenance, and amongst the rarest of all Khanjar watches known to exist. Of equal significance, it further stands out with its white gold case and bracelet – an uncommon and lavish configuration for such an early Nautilus. Manufactured in 1978, the present lot is one of only 12 white gold examples to have appeared at auction since the model’s inception in 1976. Moreover, the present example is one of the two publicly known white gold ref. 3700 that bears a crowned Khanjar – the Royal Khanjar emblem of the Sultan and his family. This lot is accompanied by a Patek Philippe Royal Khanjar fitted presentation box and it is further delivered with Patek Philippe Extract from the Archives confirming date of manufacture of the present timepiece in 1978.

Coming to auction for the first time, the present Patek Philippe Nautilus ref. 3800/1 in pink gold (illustrated page 1) is the fourth example of ref. 3800 in pink gold to appear in the auction market. Incredibly rare, it is the second example in the market to bear ‘cream dial’ with diamond markers configuration. Alongside the present example is a special letter carrying the logo of Patek Philippe Geneva and addressed in German in August 1990. An exceptional piece of documentation, the letter was signed by the manager of the Patek Philippe shop and mentioning up until date, only 10 examples were made for the ref. 3800/1 in pink gold and were all sold exclusively through the salon in Geneva. Besides the letter, the present example is accompanied by a Certificate of Origin, presentation box, and Patek Philippe Extract from the Archives confirming its date of manufacture in 1990.

Vintage Patek Philippe & Rolex Wristwatches



Patek Philippe, ref. 1463 pink gold chronograph wristwatch with Gay Frères bracelet, circa 1970
Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 – 4,000,000/ US\$250,000-500,000

Patek Philippe ref. 1463, known to collectors as the “Tasti Tondi” (round pushers), was first introduced to the market in 1940 and distinguished itself from previous chronographs made by the maison. Chronographs by Patek Philippe prior to the introduction of ref. 1463 were made with snap-on casebacks and square pushers, whereas ref. 1463 was made with a screw down caseback and round pushers.

Approximately only 49 ref. 1463 in pink gold have appeared in the auction market, underlining the rarity of the present stunning example. Originally born on a leather strap, the current owner styled it with a gorgeous matching pink gold bracelet to enhance the collectability of this gorgeous specimen. Highly desirable and stamped with Gay Frères, it is considered one of the best bracelet makers of all times, his creations as scarce as they are sublime and comfortable.

Accompanied by Patek Philippe Certificate of Origin and fitted presentation box. It is delivered with Patek Philippe Extract from the Archives confirming the date of manufacture of the present timepiece in 1970.



Patek Philippe, ref.530 pink gold chronograph wristwatch, circa 1949
Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 – 3,000,000/ US\$250,000-380,000



Patek Philippe, ref. 1579 pink gold chronograph wristwatch, circa 1955
Estimate: HK\$800,000 - 1,600,000/ US\$100,000-200,000



Rolex ref. 6263 Cosmograph Daytona "Paul Newman Panda MK 2", circa 1972
Estimate: HK\$2,600,000 - 4,000,000/
US\$330,000-500,000

Launched in 1937, Patek Philippe's ref. 530 remains one of the rarest and largest vintage chronograph models manufactured by the firm. Only a handful of chronograph ref. 530 are known to exist, with literature suggesting that approximately 30 were made in pink gold. Boasting a large 36.5mm case diameter, it was very unusual for a vintage Patek Philippe and the concave bezel makes it a very attractive timepiece even in modern days.

One interesting aspect of this model is that it can feature two different lug designs. Some have a lug gauge of 21.5mm, while others, like the present watch, have a 19mm gap, giving it a more Modern appearance. The ref. 530 is powered by the Valjoux-based 13''' caliber, and the cases were made by one of the best casemakers at that time, George Croisier.

Introduced to the market in 1943, Patek Philippe's ref. 1579 is highly regarded for its distinctive faceted lugs, nicknamed "spider lugs" by collectors due to their unique shape. With a diameter of 36mm, the case of this timepiece was oversized for its time, a characteristic that adds to its desirability today.

The present example is exceptionally well-preserved, of particular note is the signature of the renowned Italian retailer, Gobbi, Milano, which remains beautifully crisp on the dial. It is one of only nine pink gold ref. 1579 to feature the Gobbi signature on the dial. This watch is accompanied with a comprehensive set of accessories including the certificates of origin from both Patek Philippe and Gobbi, Milano, which further enhances the collectability of the timepiece.

Rolex ref. 6263 marked the birth to the highly sought-after "Paul Newman" Panda dial. The ref. 6263 offered in this season's Hong Kong auction features a stunning MK 2 "Panda" dial, characterised by the serif fonts of the entire "Rolex Oyster Cosmograph" text. This dial iteration represents the final development and is part of the last batches of "Paul Newman" dials seen in the market.

What sets this "Paul Newman Panda" apart is its inclusion of the original guarantee dated 27th July 1972 and its presentation box. As many examples of this watch are found without their accessories, this watch becomes a trophy timepiece among all Paul Newman Daytonas, making it particularly important and desirable for collectors.



Rolex, ref.6542 stainless steel dual-time wristwatch, circa 1959
Estimate: HK\$640,000 - 1,280,000/US\$80,000-160,000

Instantly recognizable by its red and blue Bakelite bezel, with radium filled twenty-four-hour numerals painted on the underside, Rolex's ref. 6542 was designed to make sure that the viewer can track a second time zone under any weather conditions. The ref. 6542 was in production for only 4 years from 1955, adding to its exclusivity and rarity.

The present example is distinguished by its wonderfully preserved Bakelite bezel, which has morphed into a stunning hue of burgundy red and midnight blue with the passage of time. The gilt dial has aged beautifully and the case has retained strong proportions. This high-quality example will surely allure watch connoisseurs alike from around the world.

Independent Watchmaking



F.P. Journe, Chronomètre à Résonance platinum dual-time wristwatch, circa 2002
Estimate: HK\$940,000 - 1,800,000/ US\$120,000-230,000

Introduced in the year 2000, the Chronomètre à Résonance immediately captivated collectors worldwide with its impeccably designed dial and its double balance wheel. Produced from 2000 to 2004, the first-generation Chronomètre à Résonance, like the present lot, features a highly sought-after rhodium-plated brass movement housed within a perfect 38mm case. It is encased in platinum made in 2002, showcasing an attractively aged white gold dial that is truly a sight to behold. Not only does it belong to the desirable early generation of this model, but it is also accompanied by a full set of accessories. With the ever-growing demand and interest in early Journe pieces, the present example is highly coveted by collectors.



Richard Mille, RM030 "Japan Edition" white ATZ ceramic and titanium skeletonized wristwatch, circa 2017
Estimate: HK\$780,000 - 1,560,000/ US\$100,000-200,000

Coming to the auction market for the first time, the current iteration of the present RM030 is a limited edition of only 50 pieces created specifically for the Japanese market. Featuring a robust ATZ ceramic case made from aluminum oxide powder tubes, it was injected at a pressure of a whopping 2,000 bar. With the rigidity increased through the process, it is one of the hardest materials in the world. Notably, ATZ ceramic is highly hypoallergenic and exhibits exceptional resistance to scratches, shocks, and abrasion, making it an ideal material for a watch case.

It is the first time this reference has appeared in auction, and the watch is very versatile especially when equipped with the Velcro strap.



De Bethune, DB28 Kind of Blue, blued mirror-polished grade 5 titanium semi-skeletonized wristwatch, circa 2020
Estimate: HK\$800,000 - 1,600,000/ US\$100,000-200,000

The DB28 series was introduced in 2010, incredibly blue and visually striking, the present DB28 "Kind of Blue" features a heat blued grade 5 titanium case with an impressive mirrored-polish and the brand's signature delta shaped bridge decorated coté de De Bethune, and the hours are marked by arrow pointers in pink gold. The sense of detail can be found even on its pink gold back prong of the pin buckle. The blued balance wheel anchored by 6 white gold inserts of the calibre DB2115 animates this marvel. Featuring the brand's signature spherical moon phase indication accurate to a degree of one lunar day every 122 years and the patented self-regulating twin barrel, triple pare-chute shock-absorbing system, the "Kind of Blue" has a power reserve of 6 days.

Auctions: Session I, 24 May 2 pm HKT | Session II, 25 May 2 pm HKT

Auction viewing: 17 – 25 May 2024

Location: GF& 1/F, WKCDA Tower, West Kowloon Cultural District, No. 8 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong

For more information: <https://www.phillips.com/auctions/auction/HK080224>

Images are available for download [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Singapore | 26-28 April | The St. Regis Singapore, 29 Tanglin Road, S247911

Taipei | 4 – 5 May | Bellavita - B1, No 89, Songren Road, Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan

Geneva | 8 – 12 May | Hotel President, Quai Wilson 47, 1211 Geneva

ABOUT PHILLIPS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BACS & RUSSO

The team of specialists at Phillips Watches is dedicated to an uncompromised approach to quality, transparency, and client service. Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo holds the world record for the most successful watch auction, with its Geneva Watch Auction: XIV having realized \$74.5 million in 2021. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, the company sold 100% of the watches offered, a first in the industry, resulting in the highest annual total in history across all the auction houses at \$227 million.

Record-breaking prices include:

1. Paul Newman's Rolex "Paul Newman" Daytona reference 6239 (CHF 17,709,894 / US\$17,752,500) – New York Auction: Winning Icons – 26 October 2017 – Highest result ever achieved for any vintage wristwatch at auction.
2. Patek Philippe reference 1518 in stainless steel (CHF 11,020,000 / US\$11,112,020) – Geneva Watch Auction: FOUR – 12 November 2016 – Highest result ever achieved for a vintage Patek Philippe wristwatch at auction.

ABOUT PHILLIPS

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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