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IN ASSOCIATION WITH

BACS & RUSSO

PRESS RELEASE

Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo Unveils a Unique ZENITH X Voutilainen X Phillips Niobium Cal 135-O

The Unique Piece, Crafted in Niobium with a Salmon Guilloché Dial, will be Offered in The Geneva Watch Auction: XVI on 5 November

All Proceeds from the Sale will Benefit Susan G. Komen®



Zenith X Voutilainen X Phillips, Cal 135-O
Estimate CHF 100,000-200,000

GENEVA – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022 – Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo and ZENITH are pleased to unveil the latest watch from a long-standing collaboration, ahead of The Geneva Watch Auction: XVI. Presented in June 2022, the ZENITH X Voutilainen X Phillips 10-piece limited edition platinum Cal 135-O was an instant hit among discerning collectors, selling out within minutes. Phillips will now offer an 11th yet unique example, cased in Niobium with a striking salmon guilloché dial. All proceeds of the sale will go to the Susan G. Komen® Breast Cancer Foundation. The watch will be included in the highlights tour to Hong Kong, Singapore and London. The auction preview will then open in Geneva on 2 November before the live auction on 5 and 6 November at the Hôtel La Réserve.

Aurel Bacs, Senior Consultant, Bacs & Russo and **Alexandre Ghotbi, Head of Watches, Continental Europe & Middle East**, jointly said, “We are incredibly proud to be continuing our collaborative journey with ZENITH and Kari Voutilainen to produce an 11th example of the Cal 135-O, this time uniquely cased in Niobium with a striking salmon dial and a movement finish matching the dial colour. From the beginning, this project has been one of friendship and we couldn’t think of a better way to close the adventure with a unique piece going to such a good cause.”

Julien Tornare, CEO, ZENITH, said, "I'm honoured to come together again with Phillips and Kari Voutilainen for a truly exceptional piece, and for a good cause. The Calibre 135 Observatoire Unique Piece is a highly embellished and invaluable piece of ZENITH history. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the Calibre 135-O Unique Piece will directly be donated to Susan G. Komen®, marking the finishing act to a month when we've been actively rallying behind the cause of Breast Cancer Awareness".

Kari Voutilainen, said, "This stunning salmon colour dial ZENITH Calibre 135-O, with the unique history behind it, in a unique case, with a unique dial, will be the only one now and forever."

An unprecedented project born out of trust and friendship. Following the launch of two Phillips edition ZENITH El Primero models in 2019, the auction house and watch manufacture turned their attention to working with the iconic vintage calibre 135, one of the most renowned ZENITH movement from the golden age of observatory chronometry competitions. ZENITH went a step further by offering a handful of the Calibre 135 "O" variant, which were made solely to take part in chronometry competitions. The movements used in this collaborative come from a very small stock of Cal 135-O from the "serial winning" years, having participated in the prestigious Neuchatel Observatory trials in 1950-1954 and winning the top awards.

Calibre 135 was designed with Observatory trials in mind and with a 5mm height and a 30mm diameter – the maximum dimension to enter the wristwatch category competition. Its design was based on the idea of having an extremely large 14mm balance wheel to enhance precision and rate stability, and a large barrel to deliver consistent power to the regulator.

The Calibre 135 was produced from 1949 to 1962 in two distinct versions: a commercial variant, and an "O" iteration made solely for observatory chronometry competitions. Never commercialised, the Calibre 135-O received over 230 chronometry prizes, a record in the history of watchmaking. These movements, with Guillaume balance, were prepared for the competitions and fine-tuned yearlong by the ZENITH "chronométriers" Charles Fleck and René Gyax. Each of them was awarded prizes in the first category range.

Observatory movements are competition grade movements and were not made to be cased and sold, as such their overall finish was utilitarian and not aesthetic. Furthermore, the movements having been dormant for over 65 years needed to be disassembled, each component tested, tolerances checked, oiled and reassembled. It was decided that Kari Voutilainen was the master watchmaker best placed to make this dream a reality.

Between June 2020 and June 2022, Voutilainen and his team painstakingly took apart every movement, refurbished them, and made them completely fit to be cased in a wristwatch, adding the signature "Voutilainen" finish along the way. Eleven movements were available but only ten were cased in platinum with a black dial. It was decided from the very beginning that the 11th movement would be used in a unique piece to be sold for charity.

It was decided to case the movement in niobium, a metal rarely if ever used in watchmaking that has a unique sheen. The dial is salmon in colour with guilloché exterior, the movement number is printed in the seconds subdial, and the movement has a pink gold finish (as opposed to the gilt finish of the limited-edition models). The movement used within dates from 1953 and ran in the Neuchatel Observatory trials the same year when it received the highest points.

All proceeds of the sale will go to Susan G. Komen®, whose mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

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The Geneva Watch Auction: XVI

Session I: 5 November 2022, 2pm

Session II: 6 November 2022, 2pm

Location: Hôtel La Réserve, Bellevue, Geneva

Highlight Tour

Asia:

Hong Kong: 2-4 October

Location: Library, M/F, Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Singapore: 13-15 October

Location: The St Regis Singapore, 29 Tanglin Rd, Singapore 247911

Europe:

London: 20-23 October

Location: 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

Geneva: 2-6 November

Location: Hôtel La Réserve, Bellevue, 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, achieving a global auction sale total of \$209.3 million in 2021, the most successful year for any auction house in watch auction history.

A selection of our record-breaking prices:

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

Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services.

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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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ZENITH: TIME TO REACH YOUR STAR

ZENITH exists to inspire individuals to pursue their dreams and make them come true – against all odds. Since its establishment in 1865, ZENITH became the first vertically integrated Swiss watch manufacture, and its watches have accompanied extraordinary figures that dreamt big and strived to achieve the impossible – from Louis Blériot’s history-making flight across the English Channel to Felix Baumgartner’s record-setting stratospheric free-fall jump. ZENITH is also highlighting visionary and trailblazing women by celebrating their accomplishments and creating the DREAMHERS platform where women share their experiences and inspire others to fulfil their dreams.

With innovation as its guiding star, ZENITH exclusively features in-house developed and manufactured movements in all its watches. Since the creation of the El Primero in 1969, the world’s first automatic chronograph calibre, ZENITH has gone on to master high-frequency precision and offers time measurements in fractions of a second, including 1/10th of a second in the Chronomaster collection and 1/100th of a second in the DEFY collection. Because innovation is synonymous with responsibility, the ZENITH HORIZ-ON initiative affirms the brand's commitments to inclusion & diversity, sustainability and employee wellbeing. ZENITH has been shaping the future of Swiss watchmaking since 1865, accompanying those who dare to challenge themselves and reach new heights. The time to reach your star is now.

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ZENITH CALIBRE 135 UNIQUE PIECE

Reference: 13.1350.135/35.C100

Key points:

UNIQUE PIECE to be auction on Saturday 5th of November.
All the proceeds to be given to Susan G Komen foundation for Breast Cancer research
Unique Niobium case with Salmon guilloche dial and 5N-color movement
Unique Collaboration with renowned watchmaker & restorer Kari Voutilainen

Movement: Calibre 135, Manual

Frequency 18,000 VpH (2.5 Hz)

Power reserve approx. 40 hours

Functions : Hours and minutes in the centre. Small seconds at 6 o'clock

Finishes: Meticulous traditional hand-finishing and decoration on the movement

Material: Niobium

Water resistance: 3 ATM

Case: 38 mm

Dial: Sterling silver dial with salmon matte finishing. Applied indexes and dot markers

Hour markers: Ruthenium-plated and faceted German silver

Hands : Ruthenium-plated and faceted Gold hands

Bracelet & Buckle: Black calfskin leather with titanium pin Buckle

Thickness: 10.35 mm

to lug: 46.50 mm

width: 19 mm



Lug
Lug