

PHILLIPS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

BACS & RUSSO

PRESS RELEASE

Phillips to Offer ‘The Blue Royale’, a Unique Patek Philippe Reference 3448/100 Cased in Platinum with Sapphire-Set Indexes in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Watch Auction: XIII – November 25-26, 2021



Patek Philippe Ref. 3448/100 ‘The Blue Royale’ platinum perpetual calendar wristwatch with sapphire-set indexes and moonphases, circa 1973.

Estimate: In excess of HK\$ 10 million

HONG KONG – 6 October 2021 – Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo is pleased to announce the sale of a unique Patek Philippe reference 3448/100, a perpetual calendar wristwatch cased in platinum, to be auctioned during **The Hong Kong Watch Auction: XIII** on 25 and 26 November. The star lot of Phillips’ upcoming two-day auction series in Hong Kong, this example from 1973 is the only example known with unique sapphire-set indexes, making it one of the most celebrated reference 3448 to be offered to the public.

Thomas Perazzi, Head of Watches, Asia, said: “Following Phillips’ strongest season for watch auctions in company history in Asia, we are very delighted to present to our community of connoisseurs, the highly important and unique Patek Philippe reference 3448/100 as a key highlight of this season’s sale. So far this year, all the watches offered in our live and online auctions have found a new home. And in response to the ever-growing number of watch collectors around the world, we are excited to bring to the watch community over 300 timepieces this season spanning a diverse array of brands, styles, and price points. We look forward to welcoming collectors and watch lovers to our auction previews across 7 cities in Asia and Europe and are excited about the other highlights that we will be announcing over the coming weeks.”

First introduced in 1962, Patek Philippe's groundbreaking reference 3448 was the world's first self-winding perpetual calendar wristwatch, and it was the only self-winding perpetual calendar wristwatch available in the market for the next 16 years. Nicknamed the "Padellone" by Italian collectors, the reference is adored by collectors for its oversized, 37.5 mm diameter case with clean, angular lines and dial with perfect harmony and symmetry. Discontinued in 1986, together along with its short-lived counterpart reference 3450 equipped with a leap year indication, it is believed that an estimated 568 examples were produced over the course of its production across all metals, with the majority in yellow gold, a small number in white gold and in pink gold, and only two in platinum that were originally born with gold cases.

The two known examples cased in platinum were both re-cased in 1997 including an example from 1966, which sold for over CHF one million at Phillips' [The Geneva Watch Auction: SEVEN](#) in May 2018. The present example from 1973 is the only example known with unique sapphire-set indexes. Only a prominent collector with high standing with the Stern family, the owners of Patek Philippe, could obtain the utmost privilege of having a special platinum cased reference 3448. These platinum examples were both special orders by the original owners and the commission for these unique pieces taking place 11 years after the discontinuation of the reference had to be re-produced.

Moreover, through Phillips' extensive research, the present example is perhaps the only complicated Patek Philippe reference from the respective era to feature sapphire-set indexes, making this already rare timepiece in its case, unique. To further exemplify its importance, the present example is one of three known reference 3448 to feature a sapphire display caseback, possibly a result from the specific request from the original owner to admire the finest self-winding caliber at the time, cal. 27-460 Q.

The present watch has been away from the public market for the last 23 years. Boasting an extremely crisp case with strong bevels and edges that are further complimented with a clean and unrestored unique dial, the present example is a true trophy for the discerned collector that is perhaps looking for the missing puzzle in their collection.

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The Hong Kong Watch Auction XIII

Evening Session: 25 November 6pm HKT | Day Session: 26 November 10:30am HKT

Location: JW Marriott, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Please [click here](#) to download images.

Touring Previews

City	Date & Time	Location
Taipei	16-17 October 11:00-18:00	Bellavita Gallery B1 No. 28 Song Ren Road, Xinyi Dist., Taipei
Taichung	21 October 11:00-18:00	Fong Yi Gallery B1 No. 110 Sec. 1 Wu Quan W. Road, West Dist., Taichung
Shenzhen	26-27 October 11:00-19:00	Raffles Shenzhen 2/F (Hai Yu Room, Xiang Mi Room, Wu Tong Room) T7, One Shenzhen Bay, 3008 Zhongxin Rd, Nanshan Dist., Shenzhen
Geneva	3-7 November Click here for the full schedule	Hôtel La Réserve, 301 Route de Lausanne, Geneva
Beijing	4-5 November 11:00-19:00	Rosewood Beijing 4/F Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang Dist., Beijing
Bangkok	4-5 November 10:00-19:00	Waldorf Astoria Bangkok, 151 Ratchadamri Road, Bangkok
Singapore	12-13 November 11:00-19:00	The St Regis Singapore, 29 Tanglin Road, Singapore
Shanghai	11-14 November VIP preview 11 November 14:00-20:00 12 November 13:00-20:00	ART 021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair: Booth S44, 1/F Shanghai Exhibition Center No.1000, Yanan Road Mid, Jingan District Yanan, Shanghai <i>*ART021 tickets are required for entry</i>

	Public 13-14 November 11:00-18:00	
Hong Kong	23-25 November 10:00-19:00	JW Marriott Hotel 3/F 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong

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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 sale total of \$133 million in 2020.

A selection of our recent 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. Visit www.phillips.com for further information.

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

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