

The Pocket Watches that Continue to Make Collectors Tick

Second Auction of Watches from the Landmark Collection

MASTERWORKS OF TIME

Celebrates the Prowess of German Watchmakers,
Achieving CHF/\$ 4.6m in Geneva

Led by One the Greatest Groups of
A. Lange & Söhne Pieces ever assembled

Sale also sees
A 1815 Bird Cage Timepiece by Frères Rochat
Selling for CHF/\$ 1m



“Working on this great collection is like taking a walk through history. As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it was an immense privilege to present in this sale such group of watches by A. Lange & Söhne – the fathers of modern German watchmaking, whose trajectory in many ways charts that of the German nation, from its birth and prosperity in the 19th century, through the trials of war and schisms, and now entering a new era after reunification. It is no exaggeration to say The Lange family changed the face of watchmaking in Germany and beyond, and the results achieved tonight are testament to their extraordinary history and their huge contribution.”

Daryn Schnipper, Chairman, Sotheby's International Watch Division

Geneva, 11 November 2019 – Following the swathe of records set in London this summer by the first sales from the “[Masterworks of Time](#)” Collection, the second auction dedicated to the legendary collection concluded tonight with an outstanding CHF 4,604,875 (\$4,622,558) (est. CHF 3.3-5m / \$3.3-5.1m). This result brings the total achieved so far by the collection to **\$15.8 million**, already surpassing the low estimate for the entire 800-watch strong collection (est. \$15-27m).

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE

- 92% of lots sold
- Over half of them achieve prices above high estimates
- German watches in the spotlight, totalling CHF/\$ 1.8m; 30% of buyers in the sale are German
- Participants came from 36 countries from around the world
- Strong participation from Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East.
- 62% of bidders participate online

TOP LOT

A gold, enamel and diamond-set hour striking musical double singing bird cage with timepiece made by Frères Rochat realised CHF 1,010,000 (US\$1,013,878) ([Lot 38](#), est. CHF 1-2m / US\$1-2m). Created for the Chinese market *circa* 1815, it was one of just three of this type ever made.



A CELEBRATION OF GERMAN WATCHMAKING

German watches were in the spotlight tonight, realising a combined total of CHF/\$ 1.8m (est. CHF 1.4-2.1m).

- The sale celebrated the legacy of A. Lange & Söhne and featured one of the most impressive collections of timepieces by the German manufacture ever to appear at auction.
- A pink gold hunting cased clock watch with perpetual calendar, minute repeater, moon phases and split seconds chronograph, *circa* 1901 sold for CHF 437,500 (\$439,180) ([Lot 22](#), est. CHF 400,000 – 600,000 / USD 403,000 – 605,000). This watch was the first and most complicated of just nine watches made by A. Lange und Söhne between 1901 and 1928.
- Further highlights included a gold, enamel, rock crystal, diamond- and sapphire-set keyless lever presentation watch, made by Adolf Schneider for King Ludwig II of Bavaria *circa* 1885 fetched CHF 162,500 (\$163,124) ([Lot 126](#), est. CHF 40,000-60,000 / \$40,300-60,500).

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Made by Albert Piguet (1914-2000) in 1933 when he was 19 and still a student at the École d'Horlogerie in the Vallée de Joux, an open-faced keyless watch based on the principles of resonance sold for CHF 250,000 (\$250,960), 25 times the pre-sale high estimate ([Lot 100](#), est. CHF 7,000-10,000 / \$7,700-10,100).
- A silver and gold double-dialled inking chronograph made by Breguet, especially for the race course *circa* 1825 soared to CHF 175,000 (\$175,672), tripling the pre-sale high estimate ([Lot 78](#), est. CHF 30,000 -50,000 / 33,000-55,000).

About The “Masterworks of Time” Collection

Embracing each of the European epicentres of the watchmaking industry over time, this extraordinary collection of over 800 long-unseen pieces – unparalleled in its scope and comprehensiveness – is being offered in four dedicated sales at various locations (London, Geneva, New York and Hong Kong between July 2019 and October 2020).

Put together over a life-time dedicated to seeking out the best examples of their kind, **Masterworks of Time** encompasses all the ground-breaking technological and artistic innovations of the last 500 years: from early watches with German ‘stackfreeds’, to double dialled astronomical timepieces, superb enamels, form watches, musical and automata pieces, tourbillons, and complicated timepieces.

Similarly, the watchmakers represented read as a ‘Who’s Who’ of international horological giants, including **A. Lange & Söhne, Abraham Louis Breguet, Dent, Ferdinand Berthoud, Patek Philippe, Vacheron Constantin, Joehan Cremsdorff** and **Frères Rochat**, through to the 20th-century horological legend, George Daniels. Each is renowned for their ground-breaking innovations and for leaving their indelible mark on the history of horology.

While watches undoubtedly represent the core of the collection, the collector’s interest in the history of timekeeping also led him to acquire an important group of clocks, spanning almost four hundred years and with emphasis on the Renaissance. From the simplest mid-16th-century anonymous French timepiece to the highly advanced and complicated masterpiece clock of the early 18th century by Johan Peter Mayr, the variety of clocks brilliantly illustrates the rise of the domestic clock.

ONE COLLECTION, FIVE SALES

George Daniels, Visionary, London, 2 July 2019 ([click here to view auction results](#))

Treasures, London, 3 July 2019 ([click here to view auction results](#))

Adolf Lange, The Golden Era of Glashütte, Geneva, 11 November 2019

Abraham Louis Breguet: Horologist Extraordinaire, New York, June 2020

Exports for the Eastern Market, Hong Kong, October 2020

PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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About Sotheby’s

Sotheby’s has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby’s became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby’s has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby’s offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby’s Financial Services*, the world’s only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby’s also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby’s Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby’s Wine, Sotheby’s Diamonds, and Sotheby’s Home, the online marketplace for interior design.



**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

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