

JEWELRY

Phillips hires Bonhams exec as global jewelry head

April 9, 2019



Phillips' New York auction site. Image credit: Phillips

By STAFF REPORTS

Auction house Phillips has named Graeme Thompson its new worldwide head of jewelry, overseeing the growing category for the company.

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Mr. Thompson comes to Phillips from Bonhams, where he was director of jewelry in Asia. Based in Hong Kong, the executive will work on creating cross-marketing opportunities within Phillips and collaborating with clients on potential consignments.

Category expansion

Mr. Thompson will head up a team that is based in offices in New York, London, Hong Kong and Geneva. The executive will work with Terry Chu, Phillips' head of jewelry in Asia, as well as Susan Abeles, who oversees jewelry for the U.S.

Phillips just recently relaunched its jewelry category in New York with a sale last December.

"I am delighted to join Phillips at such an exciting time of rapid expansion," said Mr. Thompson in a statement. "With nearly 20 years of experience and having worked extensively within the American, Asian and European markets, I plan to draw on my knowledge and network to support and enhance the jewelry department worldwide."



Graeme Thompson is joining Phillips. Image courtesy of Phillips

While at Bonhams, Mr. Thompson helped to raise the auction house's position in jewelry. During his tenure as director, the Hong Kong-based department saw some of the highest auction totals in Asia, as well as driving some of the highest jewelry results for Bonhams.

"We are delighted that Graeme has joined Phillips at a time when we're expanding rapidly across the globe," said Edward Dolman, CEO of Phillips, in a statement. "Graeme will offer the department strategic direction and a point of view to create an innovative and contemporary jewelry offering that will appeal to the growing collectors of art, watches and design.

"There is tremendous opportunity to build a highly competitive jewelry business with a modern sensibility in today's auction market, and I believe Graeme has the expertise and creativity to help us reach the next level of development in our jewelry sales," he said.

The auction house is also focusing on its watch authenticity and offerings with a strategic new hire.

Phillips in association with Bacs & Russo has hired Geoffrey Hess as a consultant based out of New York. He will join the Watch Department to oversee collaborations, event creation, sourcing and new business initiatives ([see story](#)).