

WATCHES AND JEWELRY

Phillips to auction Philippe Dufour timepieces in Geneva

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Four Philippe Dufour watches. Image courtesy of Phillips

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Global auction house Phillips, in partnership with Bacs & Russo, has announced it will offer four major Philippe Dufour watches at its Geneva Watch Auction in November.

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The timepieces are being supplied by a private collector, and their sale will mark the first time the four creations will be offered by one auction house in a single season. The group includes the Grande & Petite Sonnerie pocket watch Number 1 in yellow gold, the Grande & Petite Sonnerie wristwatch number 1 in yellow gold, the Duality in pink gold and the Simplicity in platinum.

"Philippe Dufour is the horological equivalent of Michelangelo, the importance of his work cannot be overstated," said Aurel Bacs, senior consultant and Alexandre Ghotbi, head of watches continental Europe and Middle East at Bacs & Russo, in a joint statement. "This set' of four Philippe Dufour timepieces has been an epiphanous moment for us.

"Dufour is a living icon and his creations are as coveted as oeuvres by the greatest artists of our time," they said. "How awe-striking that we are offering the very first Grande & Petite Sonnerie wristwatch ever made!"

Watch auction

Phillips describes Mr. Dufour as having exemplified what is collectively imagined as the quintessential Swiss watchmaker.

An independent watchmaker since the late 1970s, Mr. Dufour restored antique and vintage timepieces, which led him to develop a small series of pocket and wrist Grande Sonnerie watches.



The Dufour Simplicity wristwatch. Image courtesy of Phillips

These were followed by the Duality, the world's first wristwatch incorporating a double escapement and then the Simplicity.

The Grande & Petite Sonnerie Pocket Watch number 1 is estimated at \$436,000-\$872,152. It is the only Dufour Grande & Petite pocket watch made that bears the creator's name on the dial.

The Grande & Petite Sonnerie Wristwatch number 1 in yellow gold is estimated at \$1.1-\$2.18 million.

The Duality pink gold number 8 is estimated at \$872,152-\$1.7 million. Mr. Dufour's inspiration for the Duality came from the Valle de Joux watchmaking school of the 1930s. These watches had a single gear train delivering power to two balance wheels through a differential.

The Simplicity 37 millimeter platinum number 57 is estimated at \$272,581-\$545,176. In 2000, Mr. Dufour set out to create a simple three hand watch with a movement architecture designed to demonstrate hand finish and decoration.

The present watch bearing movement number 57 is one of the earlier models that the master produced.

In November 2020, Phillips examined the history of luxury mechanical watches through an in-depth film. Directed by Arthur Touchot, "A Moment in Time: Watchmaking at the Start of the 21st Century" focused on the industry's entry into mainstream culture by featuring interviews with watchmakers, brand historians, chief executives, collectors and retailers ([see story](#)).