

# VAN HAM

## Press release

Advanced report on the **Watches** sale on 15 May 2024



## The incredible “Hulk”

For genuine watch connoisseurs, Hulk, Batman, Pepsi or Coke are more than comics heroes or soft drink brands. Among collectors, they are the established nicknames of popular Rolex models. So, when the “Hulk” will be called up at the next Watches sale at Van Ham, collectors may look forward to a Submariner with a flashy dial and green bezel. Further iconic models are from Audemars Piguet and Patek Philippe.

The “Hulk” is so popular not only because of its green colour. The **Submariner** – introduced by **Rolex** in 1953 – was specifically designed for the special needs of divers. Thanks to the engraved 60-minute graduation, they can read the exact diving time, plus the watch is of course waterproof and has an excellent grip. In May, reference number 116610LV will be called up in a full set with an estimated price of €10,000–15,000.

The different colour variants of the legendary **Rolex GMT-Master II** were also given iconic nicknames. When the distinct two-coloured bezel comes in blue and red, the watch is called a “Pepsi” – this Spring sale represented with reference number 1675 for €6,000–8,000. When it is black and blue, however, we have a “Batman”, which is offered in a full set for €10,000–15,000. Rolex designed the GMT-Master 1954 for Pan American Airways to meet the needs of pilots during transatlantic flights. Thanks to the additional 24-hour hand function, two different time zones can be seen at the same time. This is still a useful feature today for travellers who move between different time zones.

April 2024

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**Rolex**  
Submariner "Hulk"  
Ref. 116610LV | Full set  
Estimate: €10,000–15,000



**Rolex**  
GMT II "Pepsi"  
Ref. 1675 | Radial dial  
Estimate: €6,000–8,000



**Rolex**  
GMT II "Batman" | Ref. 116710 BLNR  
Full set | Revision 06/2023  
Estimate: €10,000–15,000

The **Rolex Day-Date** is often called "President's Watch" because over the years it has been worn by numerous presidents, statesmen and leaders in various fields. Its combination of superb craftsmanship, timeless design and practical functionality gives it special popularity, making it one of the world's best-known wristwatches. As a premium platinum version with reference number 18206, the Day-Date will be called up in May with an estimated price of €18,000–25,000. It is in impeccable condition as it was freshly overhauled in January of this year.

The **Royal Oak** was revolutionary when it was first presented in 1972. With its innovative, "tapestry"-style dial, its octagonal shape and the visible bolts on the case, **Audemars Piguet** redefined the standards for luxury watches. By now the exclusive watch is one of the most popular collector's items among watch aficionados. With numerous complications and a version in rose gold, the Royal Oak on offer with reference number 25810 is another highlight among the selection of watches (estimate: €100,000–150,000). It is an edition limited to 120 pieces on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of Audemars Piguet.

It is an extraordinary pleasure for Van Ham to be given the opportunity to offer a private collection from North Rhine-Westphalia that is auctioned for a good cause. It includes selected luxury items and valuable pieces of jewellery, but also "**Le Petit Prince**" – a special, limited edition of the **Big Pilot** from the renowned Swiss watch brand **IWC Schaffhausen** (estimate: €20,000–30,000). It was inspired by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's famous book, *The Little Prince*. Its characteristics are its large case and oversized crown. The distinctive feature of this special edition, however, is the deep blue of the dial, which is reminiscent of the nocturnal sky across which the Little Prince travels.

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**Rolex**  
Day-Date | Ref. 18206  
Platinum | Overhaul 01/2024  
Estimate: €18,000–25,000



**Audemars Piguet**  
Royal Oak | Ref. 25810 | Eternal  
calendar  
Estimate: €100,000–150,000



**IWC Schaffhausen**  
Big Pilot | Le Petit Prince | Perpetual  
Ref. 502802  
Estimate: €20,000–30,000

A number of top watches from various renowned brands come from another eminent private collection. Highlights among them are a **Langematik** from **A. Lange & Söhne** with the pinnacle of the watchmaker's art: an eternal calendar (estimate: €38,000–50,000), a timeless **Grand Complication** from **Patek Philippe** (estimate: €20,000–30,000) and an **IWC Grand Complication** in a massive platinum case for €50,000–80,000. This high-calibre collection moreover contains a yellow-golden **Daytona** from **Rolex**, a **Jaeger LeCoultre Grande Tradition**, and a **Blancpain** with minute repeater.



**A. Lange & Söhne**  
Langematik | Ref. 310.221E |  
Eternal calendar  
Estimate: €38,000–50,000



**Patek Philippe**  
Grand Complication | Ref. 5040R-016  
Estimate: €20,000–30,000



**IWC Schaffhausen**  
Grand Complication | Ref. 3770  
Estimate: €50,000–80,000

Further popular and timeless classic watches from renowned manufactories complete the exquisite selection of watches on offer.

## Van Ham – About us

Founded in 1959, the Cologne-based auction house Van Ham is a family business run by Markus Eisenbeis, now in its second generation. The internationally acclaimed auctions cover the areas of Modern & Contemporary Art, Old Masters & Impressionism, Works of Art & Art Nouveau as well as Fine Jewels & Watches. In 2023, Van Ham achieved the best result in its history with a total turnover of around 53.8 million euros, putting it in second place among German auction houses. Van Ham is the market leader among art auction houses in Germany in the Jewels & Watches segment and is also the leader for online sales with over 40 curated Online Only auctions per year.

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