

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Robb Report



Passion Investments

HOW YOUR GUILTIEST PLEASURES ARE PAYING OFF

NOVEMBER 2017

TIME PIECE

“No other creature or jewel is quite so indissolubly and emotively connected to the great 20th-century women of style.”

—VIVIENNE BECKER, JEWELRY HISTORIAN



THE TIMELINE ON THE PROWL

- 1 **1914**
Cartier unveils the first panther pattern on a wristwatch decorated with striking black onyx and white diamonds.
- 2 **1922–1927**
The panther motif proliferates, appearing on several Cartier jewelry and watch designs.
- 3 **1948**
The Duke of Windsor commissions Jeanne Toussaint to create the first three-dimensional panther brooch—this one perched atop a 116.74-carat emerald—for the Duchess of Windsor, who is so enthralled with the feline that she later acquires more than six additional panther designs.
- 4 **1949–1950**
Fashionable socialites begin commissioning their own versions of the panther—among them Daisy Fellowes, who requests a sapphire-and-diamond brooch, and Barbara Hutton, who orders a yellow-diamond-and-onyx brooch with matching ear clips.
- 5 **2010**
The Duchess of Windsor's 1952 diamond-and-onyx panther bracelet sells at Sotheby's London for just over \$7 million, making it the most expensive bracelet—and the most expensive Cartier item—to be sold at auction at that time.
- 6 **2014**
On the 100th anniversary of the first Cartier panther design, Christie's sells a panther bracelet (1956) and matching brooch (1959)—both made for the Duchess of Windsor and later sold to Andrew Lloyd Webber, who bought them for his then-wife Sarah Brightman. The set fetches a remarkable \$3.1 million, exceeding estimates. **R3**

Cartier's director of jewelry, Jeanne Toussaint, was nicknamed “La Panthère”—an affectionate tribute to her bold, independent spirit and well-known fetish for felines. An influential figure in the fashionable and artistic circles of 20th-century Paris, Toussaint embraced the big cat in all matters relating to style, from her animal-skin coats and accessories to the panther carpets that adorned the floors of her apartment. Fascinated by her mystique, Louis Cartier persuaded her to join his family's jewelry house in the 1920s, and she thereafter played an instrumental role in making Panthère de Cartier one of the most lasting and recognizable collections in the world. She introduced the slinky cat motif to watches, vanity cases, and other accessories, but her most memorable creations were the dazzling jeweled panthers she envisioned for such society doyennes as the Duchess of Windsor, Daisy Fellowes, and Barbara Hutton. Cartier's elegant cat conceit has endured for more than

a century, in part because it has continued to evolve and because every piece is a serious artistic expression. Artisans painstakingly sculpt each example in wax, cast the ornament in gold or platinum, and then set it with thousands of hand-cut gemstones carefully positioned to suggest movement and life.

“The panther remains an iconic, desirable design,” says Christie's international head of jewelry, Rahul Kadakia. “Cartier created it and made it their own. Others have made panthers, but you wouldn't buy one elsewhere, just like you wouldn't buy a Kelly bag anywhere but Hermès.”

In 2014, which marked the 100th anniversary of Cartier's first panther, the house issued contemporary interpretations of its eminent emblem in a multitude of forms, including gold pendants and diamond-encrusted bracelets. Whether subtle or grand, these extraordinary works recall an observation by Leonardo da Vinci, who noted, “Even the smallest feline is a masterpiece.” —*Jill Newman*

Robb Report® ISSN - 0279-1447 is published monthly by Robb Report Media, LLC, 11175 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Subscription rates \$65 U.S. per year, Canada \$75 U.S. per year, International \$105 U.S. per year, Canadian GST 125220368. For change of address, send both old and new addresses to: ROBB REPORT SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, P.O. Box 422554, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2555. Allow six weeks for changes. Periodicals postage paid at Los Angeles, Calif., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROBB REPORT SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, P.O. Box 422554, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2555. Back issues are available for \$14.99 each. Call (800) 947-7472 to order. Occasionally we make our subscriber list available to carefully screened companies that offer products and services that we believe would interest our readers. If you do not want to receive these offers, please advise us at P.O. Box 422554, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2555. Please include your exact name and address. Advertising rates furnished upon request. SEND ALL ADVERTISING INFORMATION AND MATERIALS TO 11175 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025. DIRECT ALL SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES TO 800.947.7472. All advertising is subject to approval before acceptance. ROBB REPORT reserves the right to refuse any ad for any reason whatsoever. Only actual publication of an advertisement constitutes acceptance thereof, but does not constitute any agreement for continued publication in any form. California law applies to and controls all materials contained herein. ORDERING FROM ADVERTISERS: Advertisers warrant and represent that the descriptions of the products or services advertised are true in all respects. ROBB REPORT assumes no responsibility for claims made by advertisers. ROBB REPORT, Robb Report Media, LLC, its offices, directors, employees, and agents make no recommendations as to the purchase or sale of any product, service, or other item. All views expressed in all articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ROBB REPORT. All letters and their contents sent to ROBB REPORT become the sole property of ROBB REPORT and may be used and published in any manner whatsoever without limit and without obligation and liability to the author thereof. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian distribution) Sales Agreement No. 0560502. Copyright © 2017 by ROBB REPORT, a Robb Report Media, LLC, publication. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part or storage in any data retrieval system or any transmission by any means therefrom without prior written permission is prohibited. ROBB REPORT® and FOR THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE™ are trademarks of Robb Report Media, LLC.