

Only Watch Makes Millions

The Only Watch charity auction, extensively previewed in QP50 and held in Monaco on 23 September, raised a staggering €4.5 million to pay for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy following participation by bidders from around the world. Surely the most remarkable example of the watch industry 'putting something back,' the sale comprised 40 unique watches donated by many of the leading brands. The most extraordinary price of the night was the €1.4 million achieved for a unique Patek Philippe hand wound, minute repeater tourbillon – but it was unique, and it was a Patek. So could it ever be worth any less?

Also impressive was the €410,000 paid for De Witt's X-Watch and the €300,000 bid that secured BLU's Gargarin platinum flying tourbillon. The Richard Mille RM27 that Rafael Nadal wore during his victory in this year's Monte Carlo tennis championships made €510,000, and MB&F's highly amusing 'Flying Panda' version of the HM4 Thunderbolt drew a well-deserved €170,000.



Clockwise from top: BLU Gargarin platinum flying tourbillon celebrating the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic flight in space with 108-minute orbiting, one-minute flying tourbillon and integral rotating magnifying glass. SFr.300,000; Patek Philippe ref. 3939 unique stainless steel minute repeater wristwatch model, with tourbillon escapement. SFr.1,400,000; DeWitt X-Watch large, reversible, titanium and steel, self-winding, water-resistant wristwatch with double bi-retrograde hours and minutes, visible one-minute tourbillon and power reserve on the front side, chronograph on the reverse. SFr.410,000; MB&F HM4 Thunderbolt 'Flying Panda' created in collaboration with Chinese artist Huang Hankang. SFr.170,000.