

# MANIFESTO



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the declaration issue

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# ALL FOR GOOD

As a gesture of good will, 40 elite watch brands will donate a special timepiece to be auctioned at the bi-annual Only Watch gala held in Monaco to benefit research of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. We take a first look at these one-of-a-kind pièces de résistance, and preview the promising contenders for the discerning bidder



# AVANT-GARDE A-LIST



## TAG HEUER MONACO MIKROGRAPH

We favour precision watches, but we love the Monaco's charming rectangular case even more. TAG Heuer rolls out from its watchmaking garage an evolved variant of this bad boy racer, a first-time horological merger between its breakthrough 1/100th second chronograph system and the legendary case. The stunning black-lacquered, silver opalin-finished, multi-layered dial sits a timekeeping tour de force: A flying central hand indicating 100th of a second; a counter at '3' indicating the elapsed minutes on a three-handed rotating disc with a parallel small seconds version at '9', and a double-handed seconds counter at '6'. And it is TAG Heuer's unyielding obsession with details that makes this watch a showstopper, such as the laser-cut central hand with '1/100' motif and the red tones that dress the insides of its glove-inspired perforations on the "Barenia" calfskin leather strap. Not only is the self-winding Monaco Mikrograph echoing the era-defining style of the legendary Steve McQueen, it possesses the swagger too.

[www.tagheuer.com](http://www.tagheuer.com)



### 1. DEWITT X-WATCH NO.3

DeWitt calls their watchmaking audacious but we prefer to call it arrogant (we mean it in the good sense of the word, of course). It is this cocky, been-there-done-that attitude that leads to futuristic and inventive wristwatches like the X-Watch, a 49mm titanium-bodied powerhouse inspired by the unlikely pair of a concrete mixer and a car bonnet. Its unique case is reversible like The Antipode, its previous concept watch, while an X-shaped case cover smoothly unlocks like a trapdoor when the four catches at the upper and lower case band are compressed together. Even if the ingenious X-shaped cover is shut, the time can be read via bi-retrograde hour and minutes on the left and right sides of the skeletonised dial. And before we forget, DeWitt has 535-part proprietary movement animating a tourbillon, a chronograph, a power reserve indicator and the renowned patented sequential winding device. Now, they are giving this away, you say?

[www.dewitt.ch](http://www.dewitt.ch)

### 2. ULYSSE NARDIN FREAK DIAVOLO ONLY WATCH

There's such a craziness attached to its look when it first hit the scene in 2001 that we weren't sure it was a wristwatch we were observing. After a decade, the self-proclaimed timepiece with "no true dial, crown or hands" returns with its twin tourbillons – one with a carousel to manoeuvre the hour and minute hands, while the flying tourbillon serves as a small seconds indicator. A clear tribute to the original Freak is in the use of silicium, a then-breakthrough material that Ulysse Nardin became the first applicant of, and has now translated it to the majority of its escapement and the patented hairspring of its proprietary manual-winding movement. Meanwhile, the watchmaker chalks up more points for innovation with two special ball bearing systems that enable the minutes and seconds tourbillon to function without supporting bridges. And if you don't know how to adjust the time of the Freak by now, we would like to have you guess.

[www.ulyssesnardin.com](http://www.ulyssesnardin.com)

### 3. HARRY WINSTON MIDNIGHT GMT TOURBILLON

The handsome Harry Winston makes another grand entrance with a globetrotting companion that is bound for the wish lists of most travellers. Well, unless you have the winning bid, you can always pick out the Ocean GMT Traveler this was based on sans the ravishing style of this 45mm platinum player. The truth is, Harry Winston has never looked better with the Midnight GMT Tourbillon, from the distinct New York Salon-inspired arches on the bezel to the concentric circles adorning the multi-dimensional ruthenium dial. While the tourbillon will earn its attention as a double act for a small seconds indicator at '6', it is the GMT feature that earns top marks for its ease of use and legibility. The second time zone is displayed via a 12-hour sub-dial at '9' which also has a day/night indicator, and a cities disc at '11' references the current location (as a tribute, this edition includes Monaco). Powered by a self-winding movement, the timepiece boasts an enormous 110-hour power reserve.

[www.harrywinston.com](http://www.harrywinston.com)

# POETRY CLUB



## MB&F HM4 ONLY WATCH

The sci-fi, flying pod-inspired HM4 has finally got a pilot – yes, it is a miniature gold panda holding reins made of twisted gold gossamer filaments. And no, we're not joking either. Plaudits have to be given to founder Maximilian Büsler, who collaborated with Chinese artist Huang Hankang on the concept and creation of the detachable panda. The avant-garde watch echoes a touching message of courage and hope for those who suffer from the muscular degenerative disease, encouraging escapism via dreams and imaginations as the temporary means to depart from pain. Now, the flying panda, above all else, seems to make sense.

[www.mbandf.com](http://www.mbandf.com)



### 1. BREGUET RÉVEIL MUSICAL WATCH

The only musical wristwatch in this fine company is of Breguet's – a masterful composition crafted in 48mm white gold, and when activated on-demand or pre-set as an alarm, plays a 20 to 25-second melody of "Castle In The Sky". In true poetic in motion, the dial with an engraving of a child makes a complete rotation during the tune, inching closer to an adult's helping hand on the flange, which represents its support behind the auction's cause. And like last year's Réveil Musical watch, Breguet has continued with clever features on the dial such as an alarm on/off indicator between '9' and '10', and a power reserve indicator at '3' that flags the timepiece's remaining stored energy to belt out a tune – the neat part is that it won't play if there's insufficient energy. The horological music box houses a self-winding Calibre 0900 with a 55-hour power reserve, incorporating such technical chops such as a silicon escape wheel and lever, and a Breguet balance spring.

[www.breguet.com](http://www.breguet.com)

### 2. JAQUET DROZ PETITE HEURE MINUTE

Master enameller Jaquet Droz delivers another superior work of art with a miniature painting of the gorgeous Monegasque scenery on a special rendition of its Petite Heure Minute model. Painstakingly executed on an ivory grand feu enamelled dial, the marvellous landscape took a week to complete under a microscope. Housed in a 43mm rose gold case, the self-winding timepiece isn't just a pretty face; it is enriched with a 68-hour power reserve thanks to its double barrels.

[www.jaquetdroz.com](http://www.jaquetdroz.com)

### 3. VACHERON CONSTANTIN MÉTIERS D'ART PERSPECTIVES D'ART "DOVE"

It is an open secret that Vacheron Constantin is an artist at heart, a true connoisseur with the vision of elevating the wristwatch into an invaluable, otherworldly masterpiece. Traditional craftsmanship such as engraving, enamelling, gemsetting and guilloché patterns are painstakingly executed on the dial of this 40mm white gold timepiece, while paying ode to the art of tessellation, a repetitive tiling technique. As for the decorative doves, they symbolise hope and love – the bread and butter of our existence.

[www.vacheronconstantin.com](http://www.vacheronconstantin.com)

### 4. VAN CLEEF & ARPELS FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

Van Cleef & Arpels is one of the greatest storytellers horology has seen. Its novel pursuit in poetic complications continues with a retelling of French author Jules Verne's From the Earth to the Moon, which is an 1865 tome about a fictional voyage into outer space. Much like its forbear Five Weeks in a Balloon, Van Cleef & Arpels mesmerises with its skilled application of fine gems marquetry, champlevé enamelling and hand-engraving to form the backdrop of stars and planets on the dial and bezel, as well as the rocket and the moon. Its time is displayed in a captivating retrograde fashion, which means the hour and minute hands (represented by a rocket and a spaceship) sweep its respective 120-degree arc on the left and right, before jumping back to its specific corner to continue the count.

[www.vancleef-arpels.com](http://www.vancleef-arpels.com)

# GENTLEMEN'S LEAGUE



## PATEK PHILIPPE REF. 3939

There are great watchmakers, and then there is Patek Philippe, a gargantuan-sized talent worshipped in the watchmaking arena for making world-class horological acts look effortless. Here, a minute repeater; a tourbillon; a small seconds indicator, and a black enamel dial with white gold numerals summarise this gorgeous yet unassuming work of art. Turn the 33.3mm stainless steel watch over to admire the gorgeous finishing on its 336-part manual-winding calibre and mirror-polished hammers. Meanwhile, the Patek Philippe Seal, visible from the sapphire crystal case back, symbolises a guarantee to its owner on the form, function and dependability of the timepiece and its tourbillon – a vouch in high standards that is simply priceless.

[www.patekphilippe.com](http://www.patekphilippe.com)



### 1. PIAGET ALTIPLANO SKELETON

Piaget's ambitious project of movement slimming is well-documented with each new output being thinner, sleeker and more efficient than its predecessors. Although not the skinniest in the ultra-thin hierarchy, this Altiplano Skeleton is a high ranker in the style department. Its white gold case is presented for the first time in black PVD treatment, enhancing the appeal of its rose gold dauphine hands and rhodium-plated features on the skeletonised dial such as the sunburst guilloché motif that extends from its bridges to the inner bezel, as well as the main plate visible from the case back. The sophisticated dress watch is animated by a manual-winding Calibre 838P that measures at an impressive 3.1mm thin.

[www.piaget.com](http://www.piaget.com)

### 2. LAURENT FERRIER GALET MICRO-ROTOR PROTOTYPE NO

Laurent Ferrier is having a revival of sorts. The former Patek Philippe watchmaker, who embarked on his eponymous brand last year after 37 years working at the top, has already won accolades for his technical wisdom and classic designs. The Galet Micro-Rotor launched this year championed elegance and sophistication with its chestnut brown dial adorned with exquisite guilloché patterns with a

flinqué motif. Yet, beyond the dapper dress code lies an incredible set of innovations fronted by its second in-house calibre: A unidirectional micro-pawl with a self-winding system between the mainplate and the bridge of the micro-rotor; a double-direct impulse silicon escapement, and a silent bloc shock-absorbing system for the micro-rotor. As its name suggests, the micro-rotor is one of the stars visible from the sapphire crystal case back. Great effort is paid to design a micro-rotor that is as slim as it efficient, which Laurent Ferrier perfected thanks to the higher work rate of its escapement. Lastly, this timepiece isn't just a rehash of its design – this piece is a working prototype during the final test phases of its historic winding system, which it has marked "PROTOTYPE NO. 1" on the barrel bridge.

[www.laurentferrier.ch](http://www.laurentferrier.ch)

### 3. BLANCPAIN VILLERET GRAND DÉCORATION

We tip our hats to Blancpain as it has contributed to every Only Watch auction since its inauguration in 2001. This time around, it has created an elegant grand feu enamelled dial on its 45mm rose gold case coupled with an even more exceptional artisanship visible from its sapphire crystal case back. Blancpain's award-winning master engraver Marie-Laure Tarbouriech has handcrafted the Rock of Monaco and its surrounding beauty in vivid detail

on the bridges of its manual-winding Calibre 15B, an ultra-thin 117-part movement that stemmed from a pocket watch of the same collection. This is a timepiece that is simply stunning, and no less a fitting tribute to the Principality of Monaco.

[www.blancpain.com](http://www.blancpain.com)

### 4. CHAUMET DANDY ARTY OPEN FACE

Tom Ford is said to be a fan of Chaumet's Dandy line. And if you trust the maker of fine tailored suits and tuxedos on his accessory of choice, then you know you can't go wrong with this self-winding rake on a black tie night. The signature 40mm stainless steel cushion case is a resolute charmer on the wrist, flirting with an eye-catching metallic blue sapphire crystal profile that surrounds the off-centre hour and minute hands, which are laid on a rhodium-plated Côtes de Genève guilloché plate. And unlike prior Dandy models, the small seconds indicator at '3' is replaced with a perforated wheel, dazzling its wearer with its animation at each passing second.

[www.chaumet.com](http://www.chaumet.com)

*Orchestrated by Antiquorum, the Only Watch charity auction will be held on September 23rd at Hotel Hermitage in Monaco*

[Onlywatch.com](http://Onlywatch.com)