



WATCH JOURNAL REVIEW

ONLY WATCH | A STELLAR EVENING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

TEXT BY: MARIE A. PICON

A collection of 40 unique timepieces

donated by the watch industry achieved an outstanding result in the fourth edition of the Only Watch Auction in Monaco, September 23. The event—jointly organized by the Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies, Antiquorum Auctioneers and the Monaco Yacht Show—takes place biannually to raise funds for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and this time around, competitive international bidding for some highly desirable pieces produced an auction total of €4,532,000 (more than \$6.1 million)—a record sum for Only Watch.

Prices for the top lots soared into the hundreds of thousands. The undisputed standout piece of the sale was a Patek Philippe tourbillon minute repeater with a pre-sale “wish price” of €450,000–€650,000. By the time the hammer fell, this unique piece had fetched €1.4 million (\$1.9 million). A certificate of origin, a unique piece certificate and a tourbillon rate accuracy certificate accompany the historic, one-of-a-kind piece.

The second highest amount came in response to the Richard Mille RM 027 Tourbillon prototype worn in competition by tennis champ and Richard Mille ambassador Rafael Nadal, including during the match that brought him his seventh



DeWitt's reversible X-Watch

consecutive win at the Monte Carlo championships this year. The ultra-light carbon, titanium and Lital wristwatch is built to resist impacts to 800 G. At auction, it brought €510,000 (\$696,000).

DeWitt's inventive X-Watch concept sold for €410,000 (\$559,000). It features an articulated case cover, in the shape of the figure X, which opens smoothly to free a reversible titanium and steel case.

Inside lies

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DeWitt's third manufacture movement, the self-winding, 535-component Caliber DW 8046 with one-minute tourbillon, chronograph and double bi-retrograde hours and minutes functions.

Blu's tribute to Yuri Gagarin, featuring an orbiting flying tourbillon and an integrated rotating magnifying glass through which to admire it, was bid up to €300,000 (\$409,000) before the hammer fell. And rounding out the top five lots of the sale was the Van Cleef & Arpels Poetic Complication known by the



Photo © Claude Charvin

VIPs at Only Watch in Monaco

name From the Earth to the Moon. An 18-karat white gold piece with a Swiss mechanical movement featuring retrograde displays of hours and minutes on 120° arcs and both its bezel and dial decorated with gemstones and champlevé enamel, it fetched €215,000 (\$293,000).

Julien Schaerer, managing director at Antiquorum Geneva, attributes the sale's amazing outcome to the combined involvement of the participating watchmakers and to the promotion of the event through a world tour of the auction pieces. Only Watch founder Luc Pettavino—whose son Paul suffers from the degenerative disorder that the auction raises funds to combat—comments, “The auctions result is more than exceptional. Only Watch 2011 is the fruit of an excellent collaboration between watch manufacturers, partners, media and organizers, but it is first and foremost an outstanding work done by men and women coming from very different horizons who joined their energies to create hope in research on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.”

The Only Watch auction repeats in fall 2013, preceded by pre-sale exhibitions in major cities worldwide. onlywatch.com



The Blu Gagarin Tourbillon