When watchmaking meets artistry

The latest creations from the Académie Horlogère Des Créateurs Indépendants in hall 5.1, B01

For watch lovers and collectors around the world, the four letters AHCI are frequently synonymous with creative watch designs and masterful craftsmanship and this has been the case for the last 26 years. Many of the members of this elite circle of independent watchmakers have been exhibiting their latest watches and clocks at BASELWORLD for many years, including the widely renowned Danish watchmaker Sven Andersen. This year, his creativity has been focused on a world time watch. Rodinia's central dial of blue gold turns once a day and also shows 24 time zones facing the names of 30 important cities on five continents. Its twotoned gold case has a diameter of 42.4 mm and houses the TechnoTime automatic movement. It features an extraordinarily high power reserve of 120 hours.

A high technical expertise

The name Paul Gerber needs no further explanation among watch experts – the Zürich-based watchmaker is known far and wide for his complicated models. This year, he is presenting a timepiece with the legibility of the dial forming the focal point. From a

technical point of view, the winding mechanism of this pilot's watch (based on an ETA 2892) is particularly interesting. The 60-year-old watchmaker has added a third rotor to his patented double rotor system. The individually housed golden rotors within the 42 mm titanium case oscillate in unison, drawing on the natural laws of resonance and ensuring chronometric accuracy. A large date display is positioned at 3 o'clock.

The charm of early watchmaking

Kari Voutilainen introduces another of his beautiful handmade regulator-style watches whose movement features a special escapement fitted with two escape wheels, which provide direct impulses to the balance. It is crafted from German silver and fitted with rose gold wheels. Since there is no 'sliding' in this unique escapement, it does not need any lubrication. The dial was produced in-house based on old techniques and is adorned with beautiful guilloché patterns. Voutilainen also makes the case in a diameter of 39 mm in red gold, white gold and platinum.

Marco Lang of the German manufacture Lang & Heyne has a passion for classical watchmaking. Thus, his handmade pieces equipped with in-house-crafted movements express the artistry of horology's early days. In 2011, he is adding a beautiful threehand variant to the Friedrich collection, which is driven by a modified version of Caliber V. Its case will be available in stainless steel for the first time. (sz)

