

TENGOAL

THE MAGAZINE OF GUARDS POLO CLUB

WINTER EDITION 2015 | £5



GUARDS
POLO CLUB

“I wanted to make these artists known and to showcase their creations, like a master painting”



A Masterpiece of time

The elegant new EKSO Watches Gallery in Paris was born out of Ekaterina Sotnikova's love for unique watchmakers. The space showcases the most flamboyant watch designs and intricate engineering work

Meeting Ekaterina Sotnikova for the first time is a truly memorable experience. One is struck by her elegant appearance and infectious enthusiasm, but what one remembers above all is her in-depth technical knowledge and tireless search for the very best independent watchmakers. An iron fist in a velvet glove, Ekaterina has managed to establish herself as a legitimate female voice in a notoriously male-dominated industry. One of a kind, she combines aesthetic finesse and technical prowess in order to meet the needs of the most demanding clients and watchmakers in the world.

Ekaterina is a devotee of artisan watchmakers and their lovingly crafted pieces. This passion led her to open the EKSO Watches Gallery in 2011, where she showcases exceptional horology. The gallery is the first and only of its kind and sits near to the Champs Élysées in Paris. Its prestigious eighth-arrondissement postcode means the gallery welcomes some of the industry's finest and Ekaterina Sotnikova features excellent independent watchmakers and start-up niche brands.

An exclusive few are showcased in the gallery, including: Andreas Strehler, Bovet Fleurier, Kari Voutilainen, Ludovic Ballouard, the Grönefeld brothers, James Pellaton and Vianney Halter. These brands all ooze expertise and great design. "After studying economics, I decided, four years ago, to really live out my passion for watches and to make them my career," says Ekaterina. When describing her space, the word gallery is certainly deserved, since this venture devotes itself to the art of watchmaking in all its forms.

Ekaterina, having signed up to Geneva's Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie (The Fine Watchmaking Foundation), has even tried to put together a complicated mechanism. She is dedicated to understanding the craft and desperate to use her watchmaker's loupe – spending her days



examining the inner workings of watches, opening them up to learn about their mechanical features and complexities.

Ekaterina is fully involved in the process. With the same passion she shows when searching for rare pieces, she champions the designers themselves. "I wanted to make these artists known and to showcase their creations, like a master painting. That is where the idea of creating a 'watch gallery' came from," she explains. It is with pride and affection that she talks about her new role as a privileged interlocutor with the artists she has chosen. Each of the designers she showcases shares a belief in the original values of a fine watch, which inevitably reflects the wonderful styles of their native lands.

www.eksowatches.com

by appointment only



EKSOWATCHESGALLERY