

THE ORIGINAL ANNUAL OF THE WORLD'S FINEST WRISTWATCHES®

WATCHES

2001

INTERNATIONAL®



tourbillon international®

Master Watchmakers

KIU TAI YU

Born in China in 1946, Kiu Tai Yu started studying the watch structure before the age of 20 and, aged 23, he realized his first mechanical watch; in 1978 he created his first escapement without pallets. In 1980 he moves to Hong Kong, where he deals with old watches in his shop Kie & Cie. His passion for old watches led him to write the book "Time in Pocket", that was granted the Best Print Quality Award in Hong Kong and adopted by a Swiss watch-making school. In 1991 he started realizing movements with tourbillon devices whose components are wholly constructed by himself - from the pillar-plate to the wheelwork, a complication in which he specialized himself by exploring virtually all the possible technical solutions allowed for, included the one in which balance and balance spring are housed in the turning carriage with the escapement attached to the fixed part of the movement. Kiu Tai Yu is a full member of the AHCI since 1992.

Each watch by Kiu Tai Yu represents a trip into the Far East aesthetics. Chinese lacquerware and gold, sensual curves and ideograms recreate the formal canons of watchmaking through a cultural diaphragm which is completely different from tradition. His creations recalls the ancient shapes of the pagoda. The Tourbillon Flying models include the Mystery Tourbillon Rectangular made in pink yellow and white gold, the Mystery Flying Tourbillon

No. 12 with the tourbillon carriage at 9 and time zone at 2, the Tourbillon No. 13 with flying tourbillon carriage and off-center hours. The tourbillon seems not to hold mysteries for Kiu Tai Yu. We must stress that every single piece of this splendid watches, from the case to the dial, to the movement itself, is completely hand-made and produced in single specimens, each incredibly fascinating.

For two subsequent years Kiu Tai Yu is "neglecting" tourbillons and is devoted to watches without complications. The Joy of the Millenium in platinum made in 1999 was inspired by the "delicate" mechanics of the Heavenly Clocks (i.e. Chinese astro-

nomical watches used more than 1000 years ago) and characterized by the particular dial design with the large 18K gold sight balance bridge and the off-center hour display. The New Millennium created in 2000 is an automatic watch with the characteristic pagoda-shaped case in 18K yellow, white and pink gold. The hand-decorated dial design aims at harmonizing different cultures by the name written in both English and Chinese and markers alternating brilliants with 9 in Roman numerals, 21 (instead of 12 as a homage to the XXIst century) in Arabic numerals and 3 and 6 in Chinese characters.



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PHILIPPE DUFOUR

Born in 1948 at Le Sentier, the cradle of high-quality watch-making, and trained at the highly-qualified local school, Philippe Dufour belongs to that very restricted number of watch-makers who are capable of realizing all of the fundamental components of a movement by their own. Considered one of the master of complications, he started his independent activity in 1978 after different experiences made at the factories of his region. His most prestigious creation remains without any doubt the Grande et Petite Sonnerie Répétition Minutes - which was awarded the gold medal for the best technical realization at the 1992 Basel Fair (in the same year he entered the A.C.H.I.) - entirely developed inside his own workshop and produced in only one piece per year.

The 1999 model (the sixth following the chronological order) was characterized by a new hinged bezel concealing the grande and petite sonnerie on/off selectors, thus enhancing the watch's elegance (in fact, outside the gold case there are only the crown and the coaxial minute repeater actuating pusher) and protecting the cursors against external agents. A constructive detail worthwhile noting are the markers applied by a vacuum metallizing process on the inside glass surface while blued steel hands and clasps are entirely hand-made. The movement and the manual winding DF 12 caliber are completely displayed.

For 2000, Philippe Dufour preferred absolute simplicity with an hour-minute timepiece whose name is not by chance Simplicity. With a white or pink gold case (in platinum upon request) and guilloché silvered dial with small seconds at 6, this model entirely realized by Dufour himself is equipped with a manual winding movement with a 30 mm diameter and 4 mm thickness with 18,000 vibrations per hour, 21 jewels and 40 hours autonomy, with two applied gold platelets on which respectively the artist's signature and the piece number are engraved (few pieces are produced each year).



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CHRISTIAAN VAN DER KLAAUW

Born in 1944 in Leiden (Holland), Christiaan van der Klaauw acquires a great technical experience by working for years on complex experimental devices at the "Kamerling Onnes Laboratorium". Co-founder and technical manager of a watch factory in Friesland, he then moves to Joure, where he opens an independent watch-maker workshop, and in 1989 he joins the A.H.C.I.

The following year at Basel he presents a large Horological Fair and at the 1992 edition he is awarded the Gold Medal for the most innovatory design

for his "Pendule Variable", with indications concerning calendar, moon phases, sun states (sunrise, sunset, eclipse etc.) and horoscope. From the sophisticated domestic clocks of the beginnings to the wrist watches produced after 1989, making up a whole family of time-pieces inspired by the movement of stars, van der Klaauw name is associated above all with astrological-astronomical watches. In 1997, by co-operating with the designers Marco Biancardi and Mauve La Fleur, he realizes an evolution of the Zodiac Watch: the principle of this watch is based on the technical and aesthetic reproduction of Renaissance astrolabes characterized by the geocentric perspective typical for all the old tower clocks met in European towns. Among his creations, which mostly show creative and refined decorations of polychrome enamels, the following are worthwhile quoting: a Week calendar, a gorgeous Chronograph with 24 hours display, calendar and moon phases, a marvelous Chrono Repeater, a day-date Chronograph and an Automatic Chronometer with date at 6 and finely chase rotor, the Planetarium Watch con a complete planetary zodiac display (with planets in ceramic) on the guilloché dial and the manual

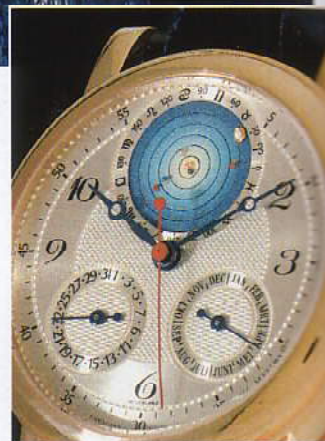
Millenium 2000 chronograph which displays the sun-moon position over 24 hours at 12 and the moon phases at 6 in real time.

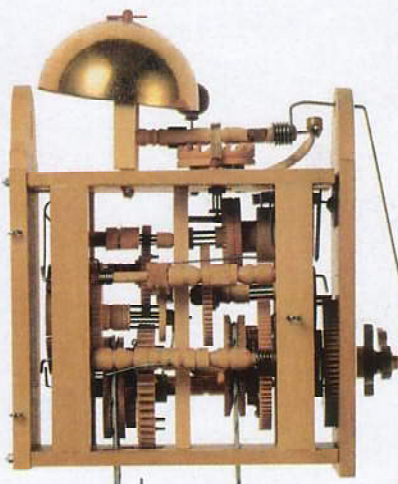
Hours, minutes, month, horoscope and sun and moon position - with eclipse when the relevant hands are in line - are displayed by the new Astrolab 2000, whose final version will be ready within 2001: the pink-gold case with its generous size (Ø 40 mm, thickness 12.7) will be available also in white gold and platinum; the silver dial is blue enameled or entirely silvered.

PAUL GERBER

Paul Gerber's work is a combination of traditional craftsmanship and modern technique which likes exploring new areas, without remaining fixed on only one genre - in fact, his production goes from miniature wall clocks to pendulettes with tourbillon, to wrist models with complications. Born in Bern in 1950, Gerber moved to Zurich in 1976, where he started working on his own at watches and movements, specializing in miniatures. Since 1989, in fact, his name is associated with the smallest domestic watch ever realized, a record piece with its 2.2 cm height. It is now exhibited at the Kirschgarten Museum in Basel.

Other highly interesting table watches are the small-sized 1990 model with a





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free escapement, the "mysterious" 1994 model with an autonomy of two weeks and the 1999 piece realized in aventurine (or, upon request, in other semi-precious stones, whose dial has an aperture on the big-sized flying tourbillon (the movement, displayed through the transparent case back, has a diameter of appr. 6.5 cm).

But it would be mistaken to think that Gerber is devoted exclusively to the realization of pendulettes. In fact, in 1995 all his activity was dedicated to the Realization of an extraordinary wrist watch model combining the tourbillon device with the incredible watch with perpetual calendar, moon phases and minute repeater worked out three years before by Franck Muller on the basis of a historic pocket watch by Louis Elisé Piguet dated 1892.

2000 is also the year of another highly innovatory model: the Doppelrotor. Identical with the Retrograd of 1996, as far as the design is concerned, with retrograde seconds at 6, its point of force consists of the automatic winding 15 caliber movement (modified ETA 7001 caliber base) with two yellow-gold rotors mounted on ball bearings, a patented system presented exclusively by Gerber and whose optimal use is conceived for shaped watches.



ANDREAS STREHLER

Andreas Strehler, aged 29, coming from Winterthur, is one among the most interesting young promises of watch-making in the third millennium. His creative bent certainly rises above the crowd of standardization. In the models realized by him up to now, one meets the typical genius of watch-makers. The first of his creations is "Le Quantième Perpétuel", a nice domestic table watch in half-moon shape, gold-plated, with the upper part in lapislasuli, designed to host a pocket watch that, placed into a kind of small cradle, resumes its functions

(the inventor of this sophisticated and complex mechanical typology was, of course, Breguet who defined it "Sympathique" because of the principle that brings the different organs of the human body into harmony).

The uniqueness of this model consists of the fact that, when the pocket watch is pulled out of its seat, the domestic clock stops working and "magically" starts again regularly working - immediately resetting time and all the calendar indications - as soon as it is put again on to its cradle.

Strehler's second creation is the pocket watch Zwei (Two) in silver or platinum, whose original asymmetric hands, which normally indicate hours and minutes, when the pushers at 10 is pressed, automatically indicate respectively date and month on the external dial ring numbered from 1 to 31, choosing every time the shortest way.

According the same principle, this young Swiss artist realized also a wrist model equipped with a smaller movement (this, too, with manual winding and entirely realized by Strehler), with only the date display. It is a technically very accurate realization, with a yellow-gold or platinum case and an enameled silver dial.

