

A MOMENT IN 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

This 30-year-old Russian, Ekaterina Sotnikova, 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 and flamboyant design.

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 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, James Pellaton, the Grönefeld brothers, Maitres du Temps and Vianney Halter. These luxury brands all ooze expertise and great design.

"After studying economics, I decided, three 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 and 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 share a belief in the original values of a fine watch, which inevitably reflect the wonderful styles of their native lands.

EKSO WATCHES GALLERY
5 rue Magellan, 75008 Paris (by appointment only)
+33 6 18 49 27 12, contact@eksowatches.com
eksowatches.com

"I wanted to make these artists known and to showcase their creations"



Opposite page:
Ekaterina Sotnikova

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EKSO Watches Gallery;
Parallax Tourbillon by Grönefeld, Antiqua by Vianney Halter, Amadeo Fleurier – Peacock – by Bovet.