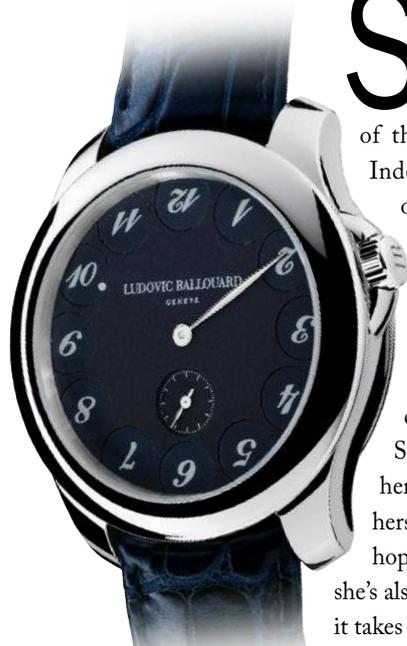


LUXURY

EKSO WATCHES

The alternative art of telling the time



Swatch
Upside Down by
Ludovic Ballouard.

Some art galleries have a talent for showcasing original works and a genius for translating the unconventional vision of their creators. The artists selected by Ekaterina Sotnikova, founder of the Ekso Watches gallery, are time sculptors. Independent watchmakers, most of them have an original streak, but all of them are capable of giving a unique material form to an abstract concept: time. In fact, the nature of time itself takes on a very different quality in this gallery run by this lover of timepieces. The marvelous mechanics of timekeeping are invested with a new and unique dimension in this store located in the heart of the capital's luxury "golden triangle". Sotnikova understands each artist's aspiration for fame, and each artist, in turn, regards her as his muse. Because who could resist the bewitching gaze of this young woman, herself under time's magic spell, that tireless watchman who never tires, and who we each hope, deep down, will spare us his labors. But Ekaterina is not just a determined woman, she's also a visionary, and she's fully aware that for the magic of fine watchmanship to work, it takes more than friends in high places. You have to fall head over heels in love. And to do that, you need to experience the emotion of these kinetic artworks, selected with care before being displayed in her universe, where she takes great pleasure in welcoming equally passionate admirers with an unshakeable faith in her taste for the best in contemporary timepieces. The purists and connoisseurs who visit her gallery will discover the latest creations by watchmaker Ludovic Ballouard, who has masterfully deconstructed the dial to offer wearers an original and surprising way of reading the time. His Half Time watch, with its upper disk displaying the time, and another disk, at the bottom of the dial, showing the minutes on an arched scale, is a marvel of balance and understated luxury, revealing a perfect



Half Time by Ludovic Ballouard features a highly original time display mechanism.



Parallax by
Bart and Tim
Grönefeld
has a tourbillon
and minute
repeater.

mastery of mechanical complexity. Watchmakers Bart & Tim Grönefeld have the same fascination for the art of complexity. After entering the luxury timepiece market in 2008, the duo recently released a watch with a flying tourbillon, Parallax, which has been awarded the Grand Prix Horloger de Genève. ■

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Ekaterina Sotnikova.

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