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WATCH



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THE WATCH COLLECTOR'S



LUXURY GIFT GUIDE

WORLDS BEYOND

By Nola Martin



The Deep Space Tourbillon
expresses four dimensions for Halter.

WHILE DESIGNERS OF MARINE CHRONOMETERS LOOK TO THE SEA, VIANNEY HALTER CREATED HIS AWARD-WINNING DEEP SPACE TOURBILLON PEERING INTO OUTER SPACE. ▼

INDependent watchmaker Vianney Halter's mind is often obsessed with sci-fi novels and films like Star Trek. In fact, these obsessions prompted Halter to design his Deep Space Tourbillon.

"When I make a watch I like to make a watch in a context that is completely pure for my feeling," Halter explains. "It's why last year I had a different way of thinking, some different origins and some different inspirations," he adds, regarding the tourbillon's extraterrestrial influences.

Traditionally, a tourbillon is devised to counteract the effects of gravity by mounting the escapement and balance in an oscillating cage. Halter takes the Deep Space Tourbillon a step beyond the normal limits, much as a science fiction story might, by creating a triple-axis central tourbillon strategically placed above the main plate thus creating an entrancing, geometrical focal point in motion.

Within Halter's design, which was awarded the GPHG "Prix de l'Innovation" in 2013, the innermost cage is actually the tourbillon cage containing the balance wheel. The anchor and the escape wheel complete a full rotation every forty seconds, thus forming the first axis. Positioned perpendicular to the first axis is the second axis housed within an ultra-light structure that rotates every six minutes. The whole set is then suspended in a cradle that completes one full circle in thirty minutes, forming the third and final axis.

The final result creates the Deep Space's appealing, unsynchronized, movements where each revolution provides an extraordinary view of the tourbillon.

The Deep Space Tourbillon expresses four dimensions for Halter. The first three are physi-

cal dimensions, including height, length and width, represented by the tourbillon. These are encircled by the fourth, time. The blued steel and curved hands rotate on the outer index ring to indicate the hour and minutes in jumping fashion.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Complementing the unusual dimensions of the tourbillon is a sapphire crystal dome atop a 46mm titanium case. An in-house developed VH 113 movement with a 55-hour power reserve powers this manual-wind watch.

Although the Deep Space Tourbillon does not resemble its predecessors like the Antiqua, there are links to the past such as the riveted winding crown and the strap lugs for the goat and crocodile leather strap. ●



Vianney Halter



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