

THE WATCHES

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Interviews **Carole Forestier-Kasapi** - **Christine Hutter** - **Alain Marhic** - **Christian Selmoni** - Guest **Sabine Rochat**



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Tissot

Multiply time

Audemars Piguet - Baume & Mercier - Boucheron - Breguet - Breitling - Cartier - Chanel - Greubel Forsey - H. Moser & Cie - Harry Winston - Hysek - IWC - MB&F - Michael Kors
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Harry Winston

Be the soul of discretion!

By Eléonor Picciotto

Secret watches used to be for ladies to discreetly tell the time by lifting a small cover on what looked like a bracelet; but that was in the past. Nowadays, women no longer really need to tell the time. Their smartphones or surroundings can tell them what time it is.

Nadine de Rothschild said that according to etiquette, "A woman should never wear a watch, unless it's diamond, with a long evening gown." Watchmakers have managed to uphold etiquette and overcome the challenge but with a twist... probably just to defy the Baroness' words.

The secret watch was designed centuries ago to tell the time on the sly and be the soul of discretion. However, that's not what the brands are after given the colours, carats and gem-setting on certain often unique pieces which grab attention and hold it with their enchanting beauty!

Cartier

Cartier is undoubtedly a master in the area. The brand has too many secret watches to count. The latest SIHH unveiled several models including the Montre Heure Cachée in a white

gold case. A silver dial with a diamond marker at 12 and a quartz movement hides beneath one of three aquamarines paved with a total of 18.13 faceted carats and two triangular diamonds. This unique piece is adorned by 1160 diamonds and surrounded by two rows of black lacquer paved with 88 baguette-cut aquamarines.

Audemars Piguet

The latest diamond watch by Audemars Piguet has been designed to reflect 21st century fine jewellery. Dazzling armour creates a cutting-edge look despite the classic gem-setting technique. The crazy cuff has an equally crazy name. A blend of watchmaking, jewellery, gem-setting and design which oozes strength, power and beauty. It's clear to see why 1500 hours of work has gone into the Diamond Fury, a glittering cuff available in two versions: fully paved with 4841 diamonds (26 carats) or an onyx and diamond one with 3500 diamonds (18 carats and 56 onyx parts).





Audemars Piguet



Cartier



Chanel



Van Cleef & Arpels

Van Cleef & Arpels

Even if Van Cleef & Arpels wanted to, they couldn't reproduce the Bracelet Montre Rubis Secret which showcases the brand's expertise. You may be surprised to learn that the brand spent years collecting 115 oval-cut rubies from Mozambique close to 151.25 carats. It's certainly a unique piece with a quartz movement hiding beneath a dial where the first challenge was to adorn the bracelet with different sized gems then accurately fit them individually and create a hinge so the jewels don't bang into each other. The brand has managed to conceal a watch inside a bracelet several times but never this way before. Press a ruby on the side and a slide slips forth to reveal a watch dial. An amazing edgy and very geometric contrast embedded in the bracelet's perfect curves.

Chanel

An exercise in style for Chanel whose quilted design is going into a full fine jewellery collection. The brand's signature plump little square is instantly recognisable as the theme throughout the Signature collection. The Signature Morganite secret watch is designed as white gold mesh adorned with diamond domed squares whose 43.66 carat pastel pink gems gleam on the wrist. The gem is rarely used by the brand but creates the volume required and can be cut into the sugar cube shape reminiscent of quilting. Its transparency provides a glimpse of a dial which, once unveiled, reveals a whitewash of diamonds with two white gold hands telling Chanel time. "Elegance is in the cut" she said.