

Time is of the essence

SHOWCASED



*NICOLAS BOS on essential time
Black-tie ELEGANCE shines through
OMEGA & Apollo 13
Inside the STEINWAY manufacture*



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Lunchtime with Nicolas Bos

Nicolas Bos joined Van Cleef and Arpels in 2010 as Marketing Director and it took him three years to become CEO. Young, humble and talented, he talks about how time affects our lives and what we should pay attention to.

Words Eleonor Picciotto

We must use time wisely and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right.
Nelson Mandela

I'm with my family, like most people. However, reading is very important to me. I love to read but it's hard to find time, or at least to be available intellectually, for works that are meaningful. I no longer want to spend this time reading books that I'm going to forget. I like the so-called classics that might seem boring but which feed your reflective powers. Having little free time forces you to be aware of how vital it is to manage your priorities.

Lost time is never found again.
Benjamin Franklin

On a trip or during a meeting, and I ask myself if it has really been useful, or taken away from time I could have spent creating in the studio. We end up wasting time because we don't always question the way we use it. The problem comes from the structure and politics of groups, which forces our hand and therefore becomes the environment in which we evolve. You get frustrated and wonder about it from time to time, but it does let you work to different rhythms.

The future is something, which everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.
C. S. Lewis

Time and the way we seek to approach this expression is really a vision of cycles, especially those associated with nature and around which evolution and transformation are linked. Time itself isn't necessarily something we influence, nor is it a weight we are subject to, but rather something in which we participate and can appreciate. The rhythm of the seasons is a perfect example. Their slowness is indispensable and shows how much time things take. We are pushed toward accepting a notion of time that we sometimes feel is slow or long; it's something I think about constantly.

The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.
Leo Tolstoy

Patience allows you to make better use of time than impatience does. You have to know how to throw yourself into something without being sure it's going to work. Our Automate Fée Ondine* is the best example. Normally, we can't allow ourselves to undertake projects such as this; it makes no sense to spend so much time on it – eight years, in all. Nobody had any idea of the time it would take. We managed to do it with as much humility as pride.

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.
Warren Buffett

The best example of what I call transmission is the palm tree. There is something so fundamental and moving about planting this tree, anywhere in the world. One does things that will be meaningful and convincing one day, but which sometimes require years of waiting. This is time beyond the life of people or companies. We owe it to ourselves to be vigilant – myself most of all. Today everything drives us toward results, but we must also lead projects that will bear fruit in another time. To have this approach, big companies must maintain a certain discipline which lets them continue to finance and use resources for projects whose end we may not see. This is the idea of transmission.

It takes a long time to become young.
Pablo Picasso

I have nostalgia for moments when making choices didn't have any consequences; when you could waste a bit of time without worrying about it. The years bring expertise and experience of course; one has less need to justify oneself and one feels more legitimate. You gain more open-mindedness and experimentation and abandon prejudices.

**Van Cleef and Arpels (VC&A) spent seven years developing the Automate Fée Ondine, the most complex piece they ever created. It was featured in ShowCased N°2 in the Outsider's section.*

“One does things that will be meaningful and convincing one day, but which sometimes require years of waiting.”

Nicolas Bos



BLACK

sun

In fashion, the Little Black Dress (LBD) is the ultimate article of clothing every woman should own. A life-saver, some may say. The LBD is to her what the EBW is to him: the Elegant Black Watch is a classic timepiece that every man should have in his collection. A timeless piece of elegance that adorns the wrist for any occasion.

Words Eleonor Picciotto *Photo* Philippe Lacombe

GRAFF
Graffstar Slim Eclipse.
Black titanium case, 43-mm
diameter. Self-winding
mechanical movement,
power reserve 32 hours.
Water resistance 30 metres.
Black leather pin buckle
strap.

LE GRAMME
Ruler Le 83g in slick
polished sterling silver.





*LEFT
FABERGÉ
Fabergé Visionnaire
Chronograph Ceramic.
Automatic movement with
self-winding calibre 6361.
Black ceramic and
dark grey DLC treated
titanium case, 43-mm
diameter. Power reserve
60 hours with chronograph
function running. Hours
and minutes gilded with
TC1 luminescent coating
and chronograph gilded
aluminum with red print.
Chronograph: 24 hours,
60 minutes and 60 seconds.
Water resistance 50 metres.
Alligator strap with
black treated titanium
Fabergé folding clasp.*

*SÈVRES
Baguette-Paille by
Marc Couturier, 2007: a
pair of chopsticks – straw in
Sèvres porcelain, 24-carat
gold and black underglaze.*

*RIGHT
ROMAIN GAUTHIER
Logical One Enraged. In-
house movement, 46-hour
power reserve. Sandblasted
full matte black PVD Grade
5 titanium case, 43-mm
diameter. Oven-fired black
enamel dial, turned grey
by hand frosting. Water
resistance 30 metres. Black
pin buckle nubuck strap.
Five-piece limited edition.*

*ISABELLE LUZET
Custom organic leather
and wood balm.*





AUDEMARS PIGUET
Royal Oak Perpetual
Calendar. Black
ceramic case, 41-mm
diameter. Automatic
movement with self-
winding calibre 5134,
power reserve
40 hours. Perpetual
calendar that keeps
the time perfectly
until the year 2100.
Slate-grey dial with
“Grande Tapisserie”
pattern. Water
resistance 20 metres.
Black ceramic
bracelet with titanium
AP folding clasp.
Boutique exclusive.

“Simplicity is the keynote of all true elegance.”
Coco Chanel.

Classic

Standing out and attracting attention is a recent fashion trend. By wanting to do so, it becomes absurd, even ridiculous. Sometimes being conservative can’t do any harm. It’s the same with accessories, particularly watches. A timeless and classic timepiece won’t stand out as a fashion statement, but will instead reflect a state of mind. For instance, the desire to transmit a legacy from one generation to the next. It won’t age over time. It took 25 years for the Cape Cod collection, designed by Henri d’Origny for Hermès, to become an icon. Adding a black DLC treatment to the piece gives a touch of modernity, part of the success of the Black Shadow limited edition.

Complex

A watch complication that is easily understandable and that does not seem like one is the epitome of what true watchmaking should be. Fabergé partnered once again with Agenhor’s expert, Jean-Marc Wiederrecht, to create a Visionnaire Chronograph (protected by five patents). The timepiece is equipped with a revolutionary movement where time is read on the outside of the dial and the chronograph function is set in its centre. Enhanced by a mix of black titanium, ceramic and alligator, it offers clarity and precision at its best.

Connected

Now that Apple has become the first watchmaker in the world to surpass Rolex in sales, the industry is officially fighting a digital era that can’t be left behind. Although craftsmanship can’t be replaced, if we look on the bright side, the beauty of being connected offers a spectrum of possibilities in colouring, design and styles, all provided in one click. At Louis Vuitton, you can change your dial as you wish. Get the Tambour Horizon one day, the Moon GMT the next, the Escale Worldtime on vacation or the Voyager on a business trip. Black on black is a must, especially to keep a low profile. For this, the Tambour Horizon Black is your cover.

Elegant

Coco Chanel used to say that simplicity is the keynote of all true elegance. Elegance is defined as an innate quality of being graceful and stylish in appearance or manner, something that cannot be learned. An elegant timepiece is a watch poking out of a sleek white shirt in complete discretion. It’s a watch you own but one you would rather keep to yourself, away from prying eyes, arousing no interest or envy. Adding a full black component to the equation is even more daring. Graff used matte black titanium for the case and dial of their Graffstar Slim Eclipse, a smart and bold move that proves their elegance at all times.



LEFT
DE GRISOGONO
New Retro Black.
Mechanical movement
with self-winding calibre
DG 10-01, power reserve
42 hours. Steel case with
matte black PVD coating,
sapphire crystal case back.
Black lacquered dial
with white SLN Arabic
numerals. Glossy black
genuine alligator strap with
steel triple-folding clasp.

MONTBLANC
Ink Bottle, Mystery Black.

RIGHT
LOUIS VUITTON
Tambour Horizon Black.
Stainless steel polished case
with black PVD finishing,
42 mm. AMOLED touch
screen with resolution:
390x390. Interchangeable
strap equipped with
Louis Vuitton patented
system. Stainless steel
ardillon buckle. Water
resistance 30 metres.
Average battery autonomy
up to 22 hours, sold with its
battery charger.

LE GRAMME
Ruler Le 43g in slick
polished sterling silver.





“Independent brands are targeting a niche market of connoisseurs who appreciate the value of craftsmanship, exclusivity, research and development; they have come up with products that no one has offered before.”

HERMÈS

Cape Cod Shadow. Quartz movement. Matte black DLC treatment on steel case, 29 mm. Water resistance 30 metres. Pin buckle leather bracelet with interchangeable double wrap-round.

DAUPHIN

Black diamond earring mounted on white gold.

Iconic

In 1972, when Gerald Genta designed the first Audemars Piguet Royal Oak, he was far from imagining that his watch would not age one bit in forty-five years. The Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso, the Rolex Daytona or even the Patek Phillipe Nautilus have likewise become watch icons over time. At auction, some models see their price skyrocket to heights far above the original purchase value. The black ceramic version of the Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar is a stunning beauty that collectors have been dreaming of acquiring since it was first unveiled earlier this year.

Casual

A black, casual watch is always a safe option. It can be worn at all times, by men or women, even paired with black diamonds, without having to wonder if it will suit or not. Once on the wrist, the timepiece disappears, no matter what its weight or what its case looks like. Instantly, it becomes a second skin. Because what truly matters is time, to stay on time. The Bell & Ross BR03-92 Black Camo is the perfect example of a sports watch made emblematic by its case and made successful through a series of styles. The latest addition features a camouflage dial composed of shades of black and grey in an original, military-type tri-colour coating.

Niche

The watch industry has not been unaffected by the current economic doldrums. Small independent brands are dying off, one after another. Yet, MB&F, HYT or Romain Gauthier, to name just a few, have been able to play their cards right, convincing a tough market that demands difference, technical prowess and originality. They are targeting a niche market of connoisseurs who appreciate the value of craftsmanship, exclusivity, research and development, and have come up with products that no one has offered before. Because, at the end of the day, what can you give someone who has everything?

Retro

A watch that is not round surprises nobody anymore. Watchmakers have accustomed collectors, amateurs and professionals to the unusual. The expansion of watch cases using turtle, octagonal or even triangular shapes has become common. Yet the rectangular case is odd, and is complicated in terms of ergonomics on the wrist. De Grisogono has succeeded brilliantly, introducing the New Retro by shaping the rectangular case out of a block of sapphire rounded on the edges. The tone on tone gives a sleek touch to a sartorial look that makes us wonder if the piece was designed two or forty years ago. •

BELL & ROSS
BR03-92 Black Camo.
Mechanical movement
with self-winding
calibre BR-CAL.302.
Matte black ceramic
case, 42-mm diameter.
Dial with two
overlapping inserts.
Upper insert with
black and grey
camouflage pattern,
cut away around the
numerals and indices,
revealing the black
SuperLuminova®
covering the lower
insert. Hands covered
with black
SuperLuminova®.
Water resistance
100 metres. Black
rubber pin buckle
with black PVD.

DJULA
Black Bling cuff
set with 5.18 carats
of black diamond
cuff on black gold.



RARE WATCHES

ON NOVEMBER 13TH,
ALL EYES WILL BE
ON WATCH COLLECTORS
WHO TRAVELLED
THE GLOBE TO ATTEND
CHRISTIE'S GENEVA
AUCTION.

SHOWCASED REVEALS
SIX IMPORTANT TIMEPIECES
WE THINK
WILL HIGHLIGHT
THE AUTUMN SALE.

Words Charlie Roema

lot 217.



ROLEX

An exceptionally rare and highly attractive 18k-gold chronograph wristwatch with black 'John Player Special Paul Newman' dial. Signed Rolex, Cosmograph, Daytona, Paul Newman John Player Special model, ref. 6241, case no. 1,947,369, manufactured in 1969.

Rolex. ref. 6241 'John Player Special' Paul Newman dial

An icon and a source of fascination, the Rolex Cosmograph Daytona is one of the timepieces all vintage collectors desire. Within the rarefied group produced with 'Paul Newman' dials is an even smaller cluster of world-class crème de la crème. This watch stands apart; there are precious few equals to reference 6241 Paul Newman with its 'John Player Special' dial.

Consigned by a major European collector, this piece astonishes by its superb overall condition and good looks. The dial makes a striking visual impact, merging beautifully with the case through its complementary colours, and impresses by its clean, original condition.

A crisp French Rolex import stamp can be found on the case back, beneath a transparent service sticker from long ago. These are rare finds; identical marks appeared on another reference 6241, with the Paul Newman 'John Player Special' dial: retailed by Hermès and sold at Christie's in 2013. It bore a serial number only 17 figures away from the one on this watch. The correlation between the numbers of these two 'sister' wristwatches indicates that at least two chronographs of this model, and perhaps others, were sent to France to be retailed in Paris. Hardly ever seen at auction, reference 6241, with its black 'John Player Special' dial of a quality such as this will always draw the interest of the most esteemed Rolex collectors.

lot 56.



PATEK PHILIPPE

An extremely fine, elegant and possibly unique 18k gold, platinum, diamond, sapphire and emerald-set suite comprising a bracelet watch with concealed dial, matching ring and pair of earrings. Signed Patek Philippe, Genève, ref. 3266/101, made in 1962.

Patek Philippe & Gilbert Albert

This unusual, elegant set – comprising 17 sapphires, 16 diamonds and 15 emeralds – was made for the “Montres & Bijoux” exhibition, which ran from 9 Sept.-1 Oct. 1961 at Geneva's famous Rath Museum. The show was established in 1959 to award the most innovative creation in the Swiss city's watchmaking and jewellery industries. It is signed Patek Philippe and is a typical Gilbert Albert design from the period. The jeweller says it was conceived to challenge the traditional way of producing jewellery with the help of a polishing machine. Its unusual, contemporary look is meant to remind us of unpolished gold nuggets, or of rocky ground evoking the beauty of native

gold. It was an innovative step at the time, and reveals the visionary approach that resulted from the collaboration between Patek Philippe and Gilbert Albert. The designer, born in Geneva in 1930, studied jewellery and design at the Ecole des Arts Industriels in his home town before joining Patek Philippe as part of the design team. Later he was head of its workshop. During his seven years at the manufacture, he created its most daring models – notably the asymmetrical watches from the famous “Ricochet” series. Albert was inspired by his passion for modern art, especially Brancusi and Mondrian. His bold, unconventional case designs are considered as cutting-edge today as they were 50 years ago.

lot 62.



PATEK PHILIPPE

An extremely rare and very attractive stainless-steel automatic wristwatch with tropical dial, date, bracelet and Nautilus cork box. Signed Patek Philippe, Genève, Nautilus model, ref. 3700/1, manufactured in 1973, finalised and sold in 1977.

Patek Philippe ref. 3700/1 Nautilus with tropical dial and cork box
Designed in 1976 by Gerald Genta, the Patek Philippe Nautilus helped re-energise high-end Swiss watchmaking. Released by Patek Philippe when the industry was still reeling from the arrival of new, battery-powered timepieces, the Nautilus made a bold statement. Its oversized stainless-steel case and elegant curves made it different from the manufacture's usual creations. Its price made it one of the most expensive stainless-steel wristwatches around, yet the Nautilus 3700/1 became one of the manufacture's most iconic models. It is perhaps the most stunning tropical-dial Nautilus ever offered at auction. Its dial has aged uniformly over 40 years and now bears

an exceptional patina. Collectors take this 'cosmic' effect as one of the trophies of the reference 3700/1. It is a superb early example of the classic 'Jumbo' from the second year of Nautilus production (1977), and one that rarely appears on the market. Its Extract from the Archives certifies that it is fitted with an original calibre 28-255 C movement, made in 1973, which predates the first Nautilus model. This is a phenomenon that occurs occasionally with reference 3700/1 and 3700/11, as Patek Philippe filtered in existing stock of these calibre movements from the first batches made in 1972 and '73. This fine early version of the 'Jumbo,' with its iconic cork Nautilus box, is a must-have for any serious Nautilus collector.

lot 130.



PATEK PHILIPPE

An extremely attractive, very fine and exceptionally rare 18k white gold chronograph wristwatch with two-tone salmon gilt dial. Signed Patek Philippe & Co., Genève, ref. 130, manufactured in 1939.

Patek Philippe ref. 130 in white gold
This is one of the most charismatic Patek Philippe reference 130 watches to come on auction in recent years. The exceptional chronograph, assembled in a white gold case, is one of the rarest examples of the legendary model. When first launched in 1934, the reference 130 was cased in yellow gold, pink gold and stainless steel and became a Patek Philippe landmark model. A reference 130 in white gold at auction is an event, because only one other is known to have appeared in public. Sold in 2002, it had a silvered matte dial and went for CHF 2.9 million (€ 2.5 million), then a world record for any chronograph

wristwatch. The chronograph has stood the test of time and remains well preserved. Hallmarks are clearly visible on its case, which was made by Emile Vichet, one of the best Geneva providers, who also furnishes cases for Patek Philippe references 1518 and 1526, among others. The dial has been restored and shows an attractive, two-tone, pale salmon gilt finish with pink gold numbers and indices, and features clearly raised, hard enamel elements. This white gold reference 130 is the property of an important private collector, and will be a trophy for the aficionado of outstanding timepieces.

lot 199.



ROLEX

A very rare and extremely attractive stainless-steel chronograph wristwatch with bracelet, period box and booklet. Signed Rolex, Oyster Cosmograph, Paul Newman model, ref. 6263, manufactured in 1971.

Rolex ref. 6263 with 'Panda' Paul Newman dial

Reference 6263 is perhaps the most coveted vintage Rolex Chronograph. It is one of the last of the manual-wind Daytonas. First sold nearly 50 years ago, this piece has kept its good looks and features a rare Paul Newman dial, one that has become a collector's favourite. Its monochrome black-and-white has earned it the nickname 'Panda' Paul Newman, and its aesthetics were rarely equaled in the

Daytona production. A stainless-steel case gives it a slightly more athletic look than earlier models. From the Rolex reference 6240 it inherited the 'Oyster' designation on the dial's upper half, as well as the screw-down chronograph pushers which make it more water-tight and resistant to the elements. This piece, which features the latest version of the Valjoux movement, is an attractive watch and a rare opportunity for collectors.

lot 184.



ROLEX

A very fine and exceptionally rare 18k white gold automatic wristwatch with sweep centre seconds, day, date, special order luminous black dial, special order 'sport' hands, special order bezel, original 18k white gold president bracelet and service guarantee. Signed Rolex, Oyster Perpetual, Day-Date, ref. 1803, manufactured upon special request in 1969.

Rolex Day-Date special order

Exceptionally rare special-order pieces by Rolex are among the most unusual finds at international auctions. Rolex has made very few watches for individual clients, the sort that requires custom-made components. The firm has produced special watches in series and for large companies or organisations, such as its Comex Submariners and Sea-Dwellers, or its watches for the Sultanate of Oman. This item was ordered from Klarlund, Copenhagen, by the father of the current owner, who

wanted the luxury of the Day-Date model, but in a watch that would be suitable for his hobby, sailing. Remarkably, Rolex agreed to make it, and the result is a piece that differs significantly from its standard production reference 1803 Day-Date, offering custom dial, hands and bezel. Entirely made of 18-carat white gold, it is a true special-order piece; the dial and bezel and not adapted from existing parts, but were manufactured specially for this watch, and therefore of great significance in the history of Rolex.



WATCHMAKING

genius

Words Eleonor Picciotto

With the greatest humility in the world, Jean-Marc Wiederrecht almost blushes when you call him a genius. Although he is one. Founder of Agenhor, a company specialising in the conception of complex, mechanical horological movements, every piece he has ever developed has been successful. He reconsidered the notion of time, inventing the Temps Suspendu for Hermès; he imagined the Complications Poétiques for Van Cleef & Arpels and reinvented the Fabergé DTZ complication his own way. Over the past thirty years, the independent, contemplative Wiederrecht has become an expert at all things concerning watchmaking.

How does one become an expert?

Jean-Marc Wiederrecht: You can't become an expert without experience but that does not necessarily mean one needs to be old. An expert must have travelled the globe, solved problems, met with professionals and been confronted by a lot of stimuli. Then he or she will be called upon for their knowledge as a point of reference. Only then you can consider being called an expert. Being called an expert doesn't necessarily make you one.

What made you become an expert?

J-M.W.: I don't believe I am one. The watch industry is one where you can learn a lot if you show some interest. I have met with many people and have read a great deal. I believe it's due more to the practical wealth I've accumulated over the years due to experience and to the clients I have collaborated with. Though I must admit that when a project comes to life, my expertise is deep; plus, I leave no stones unturned.

What is the expert's tool?

J-M.W.: If you are not talking about CAO programming or a pencil on a piece of paper, I must say that experience is the best tool. I spend two-thirds of my time observing and learning from what others do.

What are you an expert in?

J-M.W.: Horological constructions. I want to enhance traditional watchmaking with modern ideas. We were experts on the most basic watch complications, such as a QP or double-time zone until the arrival of Van Cleef & Arpels and what is known as Complications Poétiques. I have tremendous respect for our watchmaking

*“Being called an expert
doesn’t necessarily make you one.”*

ancestors and never dared think out of the box until VC&A challenged me with the Quantième des Saisons back in 2006: the idea then was to narrate the passage of time by echoing the rotation of the seasons and imbuing them with sensuality and poetry. It was a turning point in my career.

What do you consider your biggest challenge as an expert ?

J-M.W.: The ability to say no to clients who often come with ideas that are far too complicated and can’t be realised. It is a big responsibility to refuse a client’s wish or try and orient him or her in another direction. Accepting to do something crazy for the fun of doing it without considering a potential commercial value is in my opinion absurd. The challenge is to be able to have the right judgement in a short timeframe, taking the risk of offending the person you have in front of you.

What’s the expert’s typical day like?

J-M.W.: I don’t sleep much at night, so tend to create then – in the dark without noise or outside interference. During the day I listen to my clients, check on the watchmakers, discuss with manufacturers and consult with my team... all these steps are like brain food.

How do you evaluate other experts’ work?

J-M.W.: I have a feeling that they all do the same things and most of them pretend to be experts in a field, which they are not. In my opinion, an expert should have a critical mind and stand by it.

What do you love about being an expert?

J-M.W.: First, the environment I have created to work in, with no hierarchy in the team. Second, what I love most is seeing a product we have developed become a commercial success.





Modern VANITAS

Words Charlie Roema

Fiona Krüger joined the exclusive family of independent watchmakers three years ago when she launched her eponymous brand. With a background in fine arts and product design, she was able to sketch hundreds of skulls before picking the one for her dream watch. Transforming a mechanical watch into a piece of emotion is what Krüger calls her unique design process. In other words, a new *metier d'art*. "The skull is the ultimate symbol of life; it has been used in fashion, art and watch manufacturing for centuries," the Scottish designer explains. Krüger mixed inspirations: the Mexican holiday *Día de los Muertos* meets the 17th-century skull watch of Mary Queen of Scots. The result is a signature Skull collection that fine watch connoisseurs immediately acknowledged as a work of talent.

Wishing to develop her concept, Krüger collaborated with L'Epée 1839, a Swiss manufacture that built its reputation on high-end clock developments. Krüger turned her skull into a mechanical, 21st-century vanitas painting and wall clock, limited to 50 pieces per configuration. The aluminium hands subtly start from the nose, then reach the eyes, thus indicating the hours and minutes. The 35-day power reserve is integrated into the mouth of the skull. And as the five-kilogram Vanitas loses power, it starts to yawn. A touch of humour that required countless hours to be developed, and the true sign of vanitas. •

FIONA KRÜGER
*Vanitas. Wall clock
made in collaboration
with L'Epée 1839;
in-house designed and
manufactured
movement. Power
reserve 35 days, mouth
indicator. Limited
edition of 50 pieces per
configuration: in
black or with colours.
5 kgs.*



DAVID MORRIS
THE LONDON JEWELLER

at Annabel's London