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BEST-SELLER
INSIDE THE MIND
OF BRAD MELTZER

**REINVENTING
THE RUNWAY**
FASHION'S LATEST
TREND IS HIGH-TECH

PARK CITY'S WONDERS
ANSWER THE CALL OF
THE MOUNTAINS

IT'S COMPLICATED

Timepieces of a rare breed conceal fascinating traits.

BY DIANA JARRETT

In the world of luxury goods, many manufacturers may rely wholly on name recognition to push their brand to the forefront. But there's an entirely different faction for which the extreme opposite is the norm. Bona fide rare timepieces are those of the highest manufacture and artistic merit, with discreet complications, often advanced technology and crafted in limited editions. Rather than leaning on outward appearance, it's often what's undercover that determines these watches' worth; the owner is usually the only one who knows how the piece performs.

"We're talking about the finest examples of craftsmanship," explains watch expert Andrew Block, president of California-based Stephen Silver Fine Jewelry. "Once you develop a passion for any art, you never lose it. With fine timepieces, the highest forms of watchmaking are true works of art."

Today's discerning collector appreciates cutting-edge technology inherent to luxury timepieces. Innovative designs include revolving hour display

disks, or liquid that refracts light so the indications appear directly on the crown. According to Alexis Sarkissian, CEO at luxury watch and accessory distributor Totally Worth It, "More and more novices enter the world of haute horlogerie. In the U.S. especially, consumers educate themselves via the Internet's multiple outlets." He adds that knowledgeable personnel at distributors and retailers are still valuable resources for collectors. "My favorite resources are still great salespeople with the passion and faith to share their craft. ... These professionals will follow you on your collecting journey whether you own one or 50 timepieces."

What territory remains unconquered for these timekeepers? "It may not be limited to the number of functions per watch, but rather an innovative combining of complications never seen before," Block explains. "It may be utilizing new materials in combination with new technology. Smart watches are the next frontier to remain a relevant category for a younger demographic of luxury consumer."



Swiss watchmaker **PARMIGIANI FLEURIER'S** manufacturing prowess is revealed in the **TONDA 1950 SQUELETTE**; all openwork of each bridge and main plate is carried out by hand. The women's version is available in stone-set rose or white gold (parmigiani.ch).



LAURENT FERRIER'S GALET MICRO-ROTOR LADY F offers a double spiral tourbillon for enhanced security and accuracy, and optimized energy management; a mother-of-pearl dial and diamond at 12 o'clock are elegant embellishments (laurentferrier.ch).



GIRARD-PERREGAUX'S CHRONO HAWK HOLLYWOODLAND pays homage to the city known for cinema while boasting a self-winding manufactured calibre with visible oscillating weight, in a gleaming gold and black ceramic case (girard-perregaux.com).



The **DEVON STEAMPUNK LIMITED EDITION** men's watch displays time, including seconds, through a series of interwoven belts clad in brass and bronze that are designed to patina over time and enhance the antique yet futuristic look of the timepiece (devonworks.com).

The **ROGER DUBUIS SPIDER SKELETON FLYING TOURBILLON** exhibits dynamic depth of field; the flying tourbillon movement is cleverly intertwined with decorative elements increasing the dial's perception of depth and artful display (rogerdubuis.com).



The **RESSENCE TYPE 3** men's watch has liquid under its crystal that refracts light so indications appear to be displayed directly onto the sapphire crystal dome. The watch features no crown stem to wind; instead, all functions are fulfilled on the reverse of the case (ressence.eu). **M**

The **ROGER DUBUIS EXCALIBUR 42 CREATIVE SKELETON FLYING TOURBILLON** for ladies incorporates decorative leaf and vine representations that are intertwined with the finely adjusted skeleton flying tourbillon movement and dial (rogerdubuis.com).

