

The Arts of Time: Analyzing and Appreciating the Arts and Craftsmanship of the European Watchmaking Via Vacheron Constantin's Commemorative Watches of the Métiers d' Art Series

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Abstract

Vacheron Constantin is the world's oldest watchmaking company without discontinued production. She also has maintained a very close tie with China. Year 2005 was her 250th Anniversary. In order to celebrate the first watchmaking company to reach one quarter of the millennium, Vacheron Constantin launched a set of the commemorative watches and clock. This set includes four watch series. They are: Tour de l'île grand complication watches, Métiers d'Art enamelling and gold engraving watches, Saint-Gervais tourbillon with perpetual calendar watches, and the Jubilé 1755 watches, respectively. In addition, this set also includes a table clock with the astronomical calendar. Together, this set amounts to the deliberate elaboration of time, and the European watchmaking techniques and craftsmanship which are involved behind. How do they represent the technical complexity and especially the modes of artistic expression (such as highly refined polishing, enamelling techniques, gold engravings, etc. of the Métiers d' Art series) of the European watchmaking, are the foci of this short paper.



Dial of the Métiers d' Art Series



Movement (Caliber 2470) of the Métiers d' Art Series