



IAN RICH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MB&F Horological Machine No.2

\$102,400 | www.thehourglass.com

The world of watchmaking is fascinating. It's not just its long history (which dates back to the 15th century), it's the fusion of science and art that makes it so interesting - especially in those few companies that create one-of-a-kind pieces or limited runs. MB&F, founded in 2006 by Maximilian Büsser (the former head of Harry Winston Timepieces), is based in Geneva, Switzerland and is known for their "3D" and very expensive "horological machines" (which I suppose is a step up from "timepiece"). The company creates a new highly-anticipated "concept watch" design every year, and they seem to have no shortage of buyers.

The HM2, of which there are only 8 pieces worldwide, was created by French high-end watch designer Alain Silberstein, and features an all-black case (known affectionately in-house as "the black box") that, according to the company "epitomises Bauhaus purity and restraint", which is something I've been trying to achieve my whole life... Maybe not.

The watch claims to be the world's first mechanical movement combining an instantaneous jumping hour, concentric retrograde minutes, retrograde date, bi-hemisphere moon phase and automatic winding. The kicker is that only 8 pieces are going to be created -

worldwide - but before you get too distraught, they are making variations on the same basic design with materials from titanium and ceramic to red gold and sapphire, which will bring the total up to just under 400. So if you've got a \$100K+ laying around, and are looking for a unique investment (not to mention having a bit of fun showing it off), then this just may be the ticket.

