




COLLECTIVE WONDER

Put together 30 of the best minds in independent watch making and the end result is a radical timepiece that borders on science fiction. Dubbed the Horological Machine No. 2, or simply HM2, the collaborative effort was unveiled in November.

The ringleader of this audacious experiment is Max Busser, who in 2006 formed Max Busser and Friends (MB & F), a varying team of independent watchmakers that gather annually to create one horological machine, delivered over three years. Their initial effort resulted in the launch of Horological Machine No. 1 in September that year. Busser is best known for pioneering Harry Winston's collaboration with independent watchmakers in the Opus series of watches.

All 30 talents are photographed for HM2 publicity in black and given due recognition for their involvement. The star behind the movement is newly crowned watchmaker of the year Jean-Marc Wiederrecht, best known for his retrograde complications. Case designer and architect, Eric Giroud adopted a modular approach inspired by Meccano sets in Busser's childhood for the complex 102-part case. Busser's love for sci-fi movies influenced the futuristic styling of twin portholes containing the jumping hour and retrograde minutes on the right and retrograde date and bi-hemisphere moon phase. The double Hakken rotor was inspired by Japanese manga hero Grendizer brandishing his battle-axe.

Collectors here who have reserved their \$93,000 timepiece — available in 125 editions each of 18K white gold or 18K rose gold and titanium — will have to wait till at least March 2008 to get their hands on them. Busser fans can also approach any one of eight global retailers carrying his timepieces, including The Hour Glass, who have ordered all of its production. And for those who missed out, it's only a matter of time before mad Max wows us again. 



HM2
30 makers,
one watch

TEXT BERNADETTE PNG IMAGE MAX BUSSER AND FRIENDS