

MB&F

High-Tech Tension

After beginning his horological journey at Jaeger-LeCoultre, Maximilian Büsser became the managing director of Harry Winston Rare Timepieces at the age of thirty-one. He was in all reality more than just the company's leader: it was Büsser who lifted Harry Winston from a jewelry watch producer to a real contender in the arena of men's high watchmaking. This he primarily achieved by calling the exclusive Opus line to life in 2000, which saw Harry Winston working together with one well-known and innovative independent watchmaker per year to produce an extremely limited timepiece the likes of which had never been seen before.

Büsser had a good nose for working with the right independents, and this talent has now helped him in founding his own company, MB&F, with the help of all the "friends" he has made in this small section of the watchmaking industry over the years. Büsser may not be a watchmaker or a designer, but he knows what is currently moving the *haute horlogerie* market, and this is what he is creating with the help of a team of talented independents and an honest transparency policy behind him.

"We are creating what has never been done," Büsser explains in his quietly self-assured manner. "This is an amazing product that embodies the shared values of exceptional mechanical horology with innovative thinking."

Horological Machine Number 1 was the name of the first product to emerge, a series of thirty limited edition watches that had collectors all over the world chomping at the bit. Peter Speake-Marin was just one of the famous names who helped create the unusually styled tourbillon featuring four spring barrels for seven days of power reserve. At the time, Büsser announced plans to release one such masterpiece each year.

True to his word, Büsser beamed like a proud papa upon unveiling the new watch created to house the unusual movement he had been giving sneak peaks of for a few months. Horological

Machine Number 2 couldn't be more original, and this is no great surprise, for the horological genius he chose as his best friend this time around was none other Jean-Marc Wiederrecht, one of the most creative and professional behind-the-scenes watchmakers working today.

With more than 450 components making up its case and movement, HM2 is a very sophisticated mechanism even though it was engineered for simple, trouble-free functionality, a signature Wiederrecht element. The movement features Wiederrecht's energy-efficient jump hour/retrograde display—the latter one of his world-renowned specialties—and his exclusive, patented asymmetric tooth gear wheels ensuring high precision. HM2's complex case shape displays bold architectural volume and was only made possible by an innovative modular approach. High-tech alloys and precious metals create a tension between traditional watchmaking and twenty-first-century micro-engineering—amplified by the interplay of light and color resulting from the varied finishes, textures, and shapes, lending this "machine" a distinct, pulsing vitality in appearance to match that of its creators.

