IUXXREPORT



The timekeepers







Hamdi Chatti has worked for brands such as Cartier, Piaget and Harry Winston since 1993. He joined Louis Vuitton in 2009

Growing up in Switzerland, you are surrounded by chocolate, banking and watchmaking. Having trained as a microengineer, watchmaking was a natural fit.

We launched our timepieces in 2002. Our first collection, the Tambour, remains the most famous. The shape is constructed from one block of material that has been fully polished, so it catches the light beautifully.

Last year we launched the Voyager, which has a Seventies style. Its fully skeletonised movement earned the Seal of Geneva — one of the highest achievements in our field. For 2016, we have added a collection of automatic watches based on the design, but with a GMT function. Your watch is a reflection of who you are, but also what you want to portray about yourself. I'm extremely lucky because I can wear what I do every day. louisvuitton.com ELEANOR PRYOR



THE BESPOKE ENTREPRENEUR

Stephen Forsey Co-founder of **Greubel Forsey**

Stephen Forsey has been in the industry for more than 30 years. He founded Greubel Forsey with Robert Greubel in 2004

I went to watchmaking school in London in the Eighties, then for five years worked as a watch restorer at Asprey. In 1992, I went to work in Le Locle, Switzerland, where I met Robert Greubel. At the end of the decade we started a research-and-development company, CompliTime, and began working on commissions for a number of companies. It took us four and a half years to build our first piece, the Double Tourbillon 30°. Our inclined-tourbillon system has two rotating cages, one inside the other, so it's two in the space of one. This won the International Chronometry Competition in 2011.

Hand-finishing is one of the most time-consuming aspects because we want to revive traditional techniques. We make just over 100 timepieces a year, so Greubei Forsey is very small, very bespoke and very intense. greubelforsey.com RICHARD HOLT

THE DESIGNER

Christian Knoop Creative director at IWC Schaffhausen

German-born Christian Knoop began his career in the Netherlands as an industrial designer. He joined IWC Schaffhausen in 2008

Every watch we design reflects the heritage. at the heart of IWC Schaffhausen - all of today's collections are deeply rooted in our history. Although we constantly develop and re-evaluate, every IWC watch is still recognisable and represents the respective product family. We don't produce excessive quantities -- as designers, we always discuss ideas with the sales team because what makes sense strategically, when we come out with a new collection, is not to overwhelm people with the sheer quantity of references.

With a design icon, you have the freedom to play. With the special editions we did for the Big Pilot, you can see the power of the aesthetics: you can apply any colour - and some I wouldn't have chosen — but you can see how powerful the basic design is. This is what makes an icon and what fascinates me. twc.com

KEN KESSLER