

F.P.JOURNE Invenit et Fecit

Geneva, June 2017

F.P.Journe at the Biennale des Antiquaires 2017

From 11 to 17 September 2017 at the Grand Palais in Paris



For art lovers from across the world, the Biennale des Antiquaires has been a must-attend event for more than half a century and quintessentially representative of the French « art de vivre ». Independent contemporary french watchmaker, François-Paul Journe conceives and produces haute horology timepieces for over 33 years and has managed to place his brand as a benchmark among the most prestigious watch companies. In a never-ending quest for perfection, at the crossroads between Arts and Haute Horology, the F.P.Journe Manufacture is a world in itself, embodying excellence, know-how and innovation. It was natural for F.P.Journe to participate with an ephemeral Boutique identical to the brand 10 Boutiques around the world.

At the end of his watchmaking studies, François-Paul Journe works with his uncle, renowned antique horology restorer at rue de Verneuil in the Paris. He constructs highly complicated watches and scientific objects for international collectors. A few years later, he becomes the official curator of the Musée des Arts et Métiers where he restore the most impressive works by the French Masters of the early 18th Century.

His historical knowledge and expertise led him to demonstrate a timeless consistency in research and innovation. After developing movements with complications for major Swiss watch companies, François-Paul Journe launches in 1999 his own collection of wristwatches from which first masterpiece is the Tourbillon Souverain with remontoire (constant force device).

Each calibre produced in precious 18K rose Gold, a unique specificity of F.P.Journe, is entirely invented and made in his Geneva Manufacture with the label Invenit et Fecit as reminder. *In the 18th century this inscription used to be engraved on watches manufactured by prestigious French master-watchmakers upon their acceptance by the Royal Academy of Sciences.*

Each year no more than 900 precision watches are manufactured by F.P.Journe, with a team of specialised watchmakers and artisans, proud to work with a creator whose office is also his workbench. This is why the sanctuary of the F.P.Journe Manufacture honours artisanal work, and each certified and experienced watchmaker performs all the stages of assembly from A to Z. A unique case in this profession and a long lost privilege in today's industrial watchmaking that is more and more segmented.

Foremost reference in contemporary Haute Horology, with numerous world first, his innovative and timeless timepieces have granted him the highest horological distinctions all over the world.

Emblematic F.P.Journe Horological Creations

Sonnerie Souveraine

The Himalaya of Horology – Full grand strike functionality and operational safety protected by 10 patents

“The Grande Sonnerie watch with Minute Repeater is the most complex of horological creations, one that demands the very utmost in both technical and artistic virtuosity for the watchmaker in charge of its assembly.

The greatest difficulty in its construction was to ensure full grand strike function, using the limited energy reserves of a wristwatch, without adversely affecting the chime’s sonority or reliability.

In the past, it has always been risky to use a Grande Sonnerie watch. The slightest error – for example, adjusting the time while the watch is chiming – could seriously damage the watch’s delicate mechanisms.

Therefore, the first entry in F.P.Journe’s specification book for this watch was: “make the watch so that an eight year old child can manipulate it safely without damaging it. I must say this was the most difficult challenge of my career!

To meet this challenge I had to construct a movement based on new mechanical principles. Thus, according to the brand’s motto, ten patents testify to the “Invenit” of this work of watchmaking art, while the “Fecit” took six years of research and development”.

The Sonnerie Souveraine strikes the hours and quarters in passing; and in small striking mode, it rings only the hours at the hour, and then only the quarters. Furthermore, it also strikes on demand, like the Répétition Souveraine, the hours, quarters and minutes.

The construction of this movement was a continual quest to maximise mechanical efficiency, in order to achieve 912 hammer strikes every 24 hours. The result was obtained by economising energy and by using gentle mechanisms and a low-tension movement that requires extremely precise adjustment to insure unflinching chiming 35,040 times a year.

Revealed through the sapphire crystal case-back, the 408 components have been meticulously and patiently crafted by a truly skilled watchmaker to form a reliable and resolutely innovative mechanism. The extra flat gongs of just three-tenths of a millimetre thick are mounted around the movement to increase space and produce a louder and clearer sound than classic gongs.

For the first time in history, a grand strike clock watch provides a true comfort and a total security, ensuring that the mechanism cannot be damaged by incorrect manipulation. Marvel of technicity, the F.P.Journe Sonnerie Souveraine provides patented security mechanisms that forbid the watch to strike while the crown is pulled out and forbid to pull the crown while the striking mechanism is engaged.

The sense of hearing has allowed the development of a new sensation and a novel relation to time and allows the owner to engage in a constant dialogue with his watch.

The Sonnerie Souveraine bears no reference number but is engraved with the name of its owner, giving it a true identity and making it a truly exceptional object.

For its striking watches, F.P.Journe has exceptionally abandoned precious metals for its cases, Gold and Platinum for a noble cause, to ensure the best possible striking tones that make optimal use of the crystalline structure of Steel.

The Sonnerie Souveraine received the Aiguille d’Or prize at the Grand Prix d’Horlogerie de Genève in 2006. It was also named Watch of the Year at the Grand Prize of Japan in 2006.



Chronomètre à Résonance

Emblematic timepiece that signs the horological research of F.P.Journe on precision

This unique watch represents one of the wildest challenges ever in the field of the mechanical watch! Utilizing the natural resonance phenomenon, this exceptional mechanism revolutionized the classic standards of watch-making by offering an unequalled precision for a wristwatch.

The first applications of the resonance phenomenon in horological science date back to the 18th century, by French master watchmaker Antide Janvier (†1840). He observed the negative effects of these waves on clocks and then conducted his own research on ways of using this phenomenon in the operating of regulators.

François-Paul Journe is the only watchmaker who has shown interest for the fascinating phenomenon of resonance. He first constructs a pocket watch that does not satisfy him.

He pursues his research and presents in 2000, the only wristwatch in the world featuring manually wound movement in 18K rose Gold featuring two balance springs beating in perfect synchronisation under the resonance phenomenon and auto regulate each other. Resonance is generated by the balances' oscillations, which reach a state of "sympathy" and begin to beat in rhythm, thus greatly increasing the watch's precision when worn.

This movement must be very precisely adjusted for the two balances to achieve the precise position that allows them to enter into resonance. With this unique watch, F.P. Journe pays homage to the resonance research done by the great 18th century horologist Antide Janvier.

The two time displays may also be used as two independent time zones. The sophisticated mechanism may be admired through the sapphire case back, which reveals the two mechanical "hearts" beating in perfect unison in a very precise position to enter in resonance.

F.P.Journe is the only Manufacture to feature this phenomenon in a watch.

The Chronomètre à Résonance received the Grand Complication Prize at the Geneva Grand Prix d'Horlogerie in 2010.



Tourbillon Souverain

The only Tourbillon with remontoire and dead beat second

In 1999, F.P.Journe presented the Tourbillon Souverain, the first model of the Souveraine collection and the only tourbillon wristwatch with remontoire (constant force device). It remains today a reference in terms of precision.

Driven by his passion for chronometric research and by his need to create, François-Paul Journe added a dead beat second to the remontoire. Its exceptional manually wound 18 K rose Gold movement, visible through the sapphire crystal case back, incorporates the remontoire that François-Paul Journe has used since 1983, due to its chronometric performance.

This complication, unique in a contemporary wristwatch, ensures greater timekeeping precision. The definition of dead beat seconds means that the hand remains motionless (dead) until the second has actually elapsed; it indicates the second once it has passed.

The dial has the distinctive look of all F.P.Journe chronometers. The guilloché Silver hour, minutes and seconds subdial is held in place by a circle that is screwed onto the main white or red Gold dial, one of the brand's signatures. The 42 hour power reserve at 12 o'clock harmonises perfectly with the dead beat second indication at 6 o'clock

The Tourbillon Souverain received the Aiguille d'Or prize at the Geneva Grand Prix d'Horlogerie in 2004. It was also elected Watch of the Year at the "Watch of the Year" Grand Prize in Japan in 2004.



The Quantième Perpétuel

Optimum readability and simplified use for the F.P.Journe Quantième Perpétuel with instantaneous jump

The F.P.Journe Quantième Perpétuel with instantaneous jump is aesthetically different from all existing perpetual calendar watches, with its uncluttered dial whose windows provide perfect legibility.

It features large windows for the calendar with days and month, as well as a large date, a characteristic of F.P.Journe watches, in two windows. The instantaneous jump is driven by an ingenious system conceived to accumulate energy and release it instantaneously and simultaneously when the date, day, or month changes, and to slow it down afterward.

Unlike other perpetual calendars, which are often difficult to adjust, the F.P. Journe Quantième Perpétuel is extremely easy to use.

Corrections are made by the three-position crown, except for the rapid correction of months, done by a protected corrector lever that is hidden beneath the lug at 1 o'clock. This facilitates adjustment over four years, with no special tools required. The lengths of the months with 28, 29, 30 and 31 days are automatically taken into account, as is the leap year - "L" – indicated in the centre of the dial in red. Years 1, 2 and 3 are shown in black.

The Quantième Perpétuel, like all the models of the Octa collection, features a mechanical movement with automatic winding manufactured in 18 K rose Gold. It has a long power reserve of over 120 hours. It also features F.P.Journe's exclusive off-centre 22 K red Gold rotor, for unequalled efficiency.



élégante

Nouveau concept horloger révolutionnaire

Conciliating tradition, innovation and modern technology, F.P.Journe has developed a revolutionary horological concept. It was designed and conceived with extremely precise technical specifications to provide an exceptionally long autonomy - 8 to 10 years in daily use and up to 18 years in standby mode.

It took 8 years of research to develop this innovative movement combining comfort and ease of use with the performance of an electromechanical watch, and blending of elegance and precision. The "élégante" allows time to be stopped and started again, which is the dream of every watchmaker...

This electromechanical watch is fitted with a mechanical motion detector visible on the dial at 4.30h. After 30 minutes motionless, the "élégante" switches to standby mode in order to save energy and its hands stop turning. In standby mode the microprocessor continues to measure time, but the mechanical elements – gear train, rotors and hands, stop moving.

As soon as the "élégante" is worn again, it automatically sets itself to the correct time, with the hands taking the shortest path, whether clockwise or counter-clockwise. A playful watch that goes to sleep and wakes up in the same time as its owner. Magical !

All the mechanical elements of the movement of the "élégante" are manufactured by F.P. Journe, following his standards of state-of-the-art excellence in Haute Horology.

The electronic parts are made in Switzerland according to strict criteria, including a microprocessor designed specifically for this watch under F.P.Journe specifications.

The luminescent dial of the Titanium version, resembling white mother-of-pearl, features a novel design. It offers maximum legibility at night, when the hands indicate the time as in a shadow play. As a finishing touch F.P. Journe has chosen a flat Tortue case (trademarked ®).

The "élégante" was awarded the Ladies Watch Prize at the « Montre de l'Année » in Geneva in 2014.

