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REVELATION

# INDEPENDENT ATELIER



The R04 Tourbillon Magical Watch Dial performs a real magic trick.

## REVELATION

BY ELIZABETH DOERR

I can personally guarantee you have never seen a tourbillon like this one. Aside from the mechanical wizardry of the movement's beating tourbillon heart, the R04 Tourbillon Magical Watch Dial has a real-live

magic trick up its sleeve: when the case's bezel is rotated 90 degrees, the dial transforms from showing the time against a solid black background to a transparent one, thus revealing a view of the luxurious Manège Tourbillon, originally introduced at Baselworld 2012.

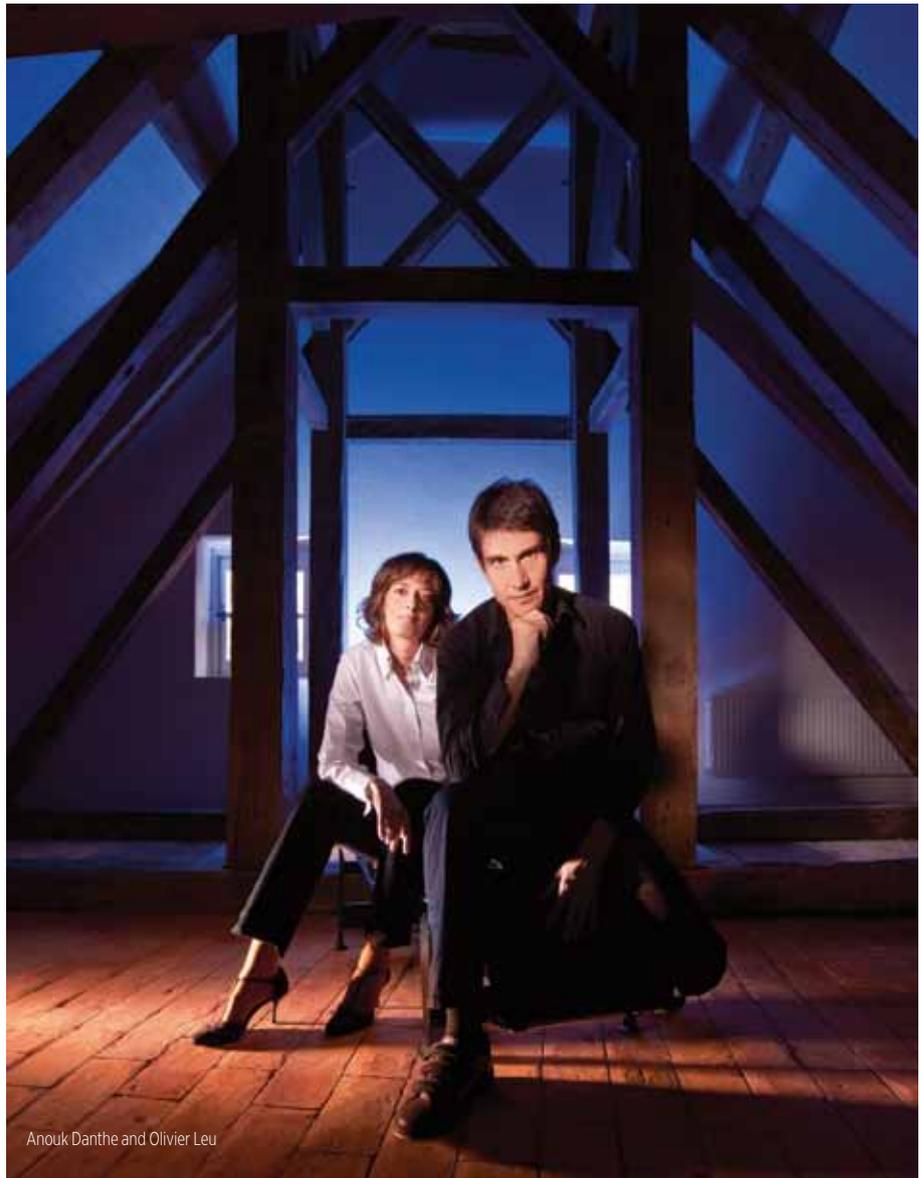
Revelation created this effect by working with the scientists of the optical department known as Thin Film Optic of the renowned Swiss Center of Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM). The effect that Revelation's two founding designers have created in cooperation with the CSEM is made possible by super-positioning two polarizing crystal

## QUICK FACTS

- + Founders Anouk Danthe and Olivier Leu are real-life partners in addition to being business partners
- + The Manège Tourbillon is named for a circus ring
- + The Magical Watch Dial performs its magic trick using scientific nano-structures



**THIS BOUTIQUE** Swiss brand was born in 2007 in a village in the heart of Switzerland's winemaking region called Lully-sur-Morges thanks to the passionate determination of its two founders Anouk Danthe and Olivier Leu. The couple, who have only been exhibiting at BaselWorld for three years, have thus far released four rather technical and definitively inventive models: R01 Double Complication, R02 Haute Horlogerie, R03 Magical Watch Dial, and the R04 Tourbillon Magical Watch Dial.



Anouk Danthe and Olivier Leu

disks. The scientific nanostructures of these disks more or less play the role of "shutter slats" about 70 nanometers wide (one nanometer is one-billionth of a meter). They block light to make the dial black and, transversely, let light pass to become transparent. It is critical that these disks be perfectly placed on top of one another to work properly.

The magic dial was imagined and realized by Revelation founders Anouk Danthe and Olivier Leu, who both attended the Swiss arm of the famed Art Center College of Design, whose main campus is in Pasadena, California. It was there they met, but only became a couple three years later after a chance meeting at a gas station.

Another decade down the road, their custom-built tourbillon began to see (and block!) the light of day. They christened it with the French word for "circus ring," as its construction reminded them of the rotating platform presided over by a ringmaster. The Manège Tourbillon's components, such as the balance, escape wheel, pinion and lever, are mounted on a mobile bridge that acts as the fourth wheel, thus revolving the entire construct.

Revelation's master watchmaker needs one month to assemble the 365 components of the R04 Magical Watch Dial model's manually wound movement, which is housed in a 45mm 18-karat rose gold case boasting a case band and case back in black PVD-coated titanium.



"We have the same creative education, which helps a great deal to work together on an everyday basis," Danthe explains. 🍷

*Elizabeth Doerr is the editor-in-chief of QuillAndPad.com, a new online magazine specialized in high-end and independent horology.*