

名錶論壇

WATCH CRITICS



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A Visual Revelation



夫妻檔Olivier Lau和Anouk Danthe早前雙雙來到集中不少獨立製錶品牌的東方錶行大道中100號旗艦店為他們的處女作Revelation陀飛輪舉行東南亞第一個新品發佈會。Revelation是光學和鐘錶學的結合。平常看，它是外觀造型獨特，但樣貌簡潔的黑面兩針錶。不告訴你也不會知道原來6時位暗藏玄機，只要輕巧撥擊，便可順着12時的“關節”把由兩片剛石組成，立體刻度嵌在中央的鏡面掀起。這時你會以為自己眼花，因不知何時墨黑的錶面已變成透明，露出裡面將框架化為大秒針，一分鐘轉一圈的“旋轉木馬式”陀飛輪。Olivier和Anouk都是出身名錶廠的工業設計師，立志要造出前所未有的複雜錶。按他們概念而交錶匠設定的TM01機芯連平衡擺輪和游絲都是自家的。我問他們還很費事吧？Olivier說早知這樣困難便買回來算了，但現下有自家用的，汗水總算沒白流。雖然機芯的造型明顯有所不同，但他們的概念跟卡記的Astrotourbillon似乎不謀而合。Anouk也不諱言在Revelation的機板階段時聽聞有大廠在製作概念上相關的東西，便率先公佈了他們的結構。

比起Astrotourbillon，Revelation把機芯曝露的更多，你可以看到與別不同的擺輪上夾板，推動旋轉的齒輪裝置，甚至是在框架另一頭的實金平衡砵碼和調節砵碼位置用的螺絲。面蓋掀後，仍有三塊錶鏡，最上是正常的晶石錶鏡，下面是兩塊由瑞士著名微工程研發廠CSEM開發及製作的偏光鏡。上蓋在常態時，上面的偏光鏡片和下面的有90°相位差，因光完全不能通過，於是一片漆黑。揭蓋關節內連相關組裝合共有71個部件，掀蓋時180°的動作經行星齒輪轉化為扭動偏光鏡片90°的動作，兩塊偏光鏡同列讓光通過，錶芯於是豁然開朗。TM01的其餘部份可以透過剛石底蓋觀察，夾板左右分立鏤通，每條邊緣都以人手倒角拋光。44石的人手上鍊機芯由4個串連的發條鼓提供長達48小時貯存。這最尖端的腕錶設計，Olivier解釋靈感其實來自最古老的懷錶和鐘錶。他們兩口子都喜歡後者將機芯活現的觀賞價值，但看時間實在難。懷錶則個性典雅之餘多還具備掀底蓋看機芯的優點，於是想到將揭蓋巧妙改到正面且透視機芯的奇招。(Timothy)

Olivier Leu and Anouk Danthe is a husband and wife partnership. In co-operation with the flagship store of the Oriental Watch at Queen's Road Central 100 their brainchild Revelation had its debut in Asia. It is a unique complication not simply because of its tourbillon menage (i.e. merry-go-around) but its clever use of optics. Its dial is an iridescent black when the upper lid is in place but transparent to unveil the mechanism when the lid is fully opened. Thanks to two pieces of polarized lenses manufactured by the micro-engineering giant CSEM, they are completely out-of-phase when the lid bearing the gold indices and logos sandwiched between two sapphire crystals are opened. Unlatched by a secret button at 6, the hinge block on top contains 71 parts that transforms its 180° angular motion to the 90° circular motion of the planetary gear bearing lower lens such that the two polarized lenses are in alignment and light passes through. The extended tourbillon cage also serves as a large sweep seconds that goes full circle once a minute. I cannot help asking the two if looks similar to the concept of Cartier's Astrotourbillon. The couple believed great minds think alike but they were the first to unveil this idea to the press in 2008.

For lovers of mechanism, the Revelation is in fact more revelatory. The upper bridge of the tourbillon is stylishly shaped. The proprietor balance wheel and the gold block counter-weight are clearly seen, so are the gears responsible for the menage action. A see-through back further discloses the remarkable architecture of the TM01 movement with 4 barrels joining force serially to assure 48 hours autonomy despite its spectacular tourbillon mechanism consumes much energy. The manual-winding movement has 44 jewels and a cadence of 21,600vph. The very modern Revelation is however inspired by something rather ancient: pocket watches. Anouk and Olivier admire skeleton watches but unfortunately most of them are good looking but not good for time reading. The dial of most pocket watches are on the other hand clean and highly legible. What's more, most of them have hinged backs that can be opened to reveal the universe within. With advanced optical device they manage to develop Revelation that unveils the beauty of its skeleton movement through an update of the pocket watch architecture.

