

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HIPPOCAMPUS

In a world premiere at the MB&F M.A.D. Gallery, Zurich clockmaker **Miki Eleta** will present his latest timepiece – **HIPPOCAMPUS** – his largest creation to date. **HIPPOCAMPUS** is 2.8 metres high and features a musical movement in which the melody will not repeat itself over a hundred years.

THE 'NON-CLOCKMAKER' – CREATOR OF 28 CLOCKS

"Nothing is impossible. I'm not more intelligent than other people," he says, "just more tenacious."

Completely self-taught, Miki Eleta has become a full-fledged clockmaker. He created his own escapement called the **ELETA-HEMMUNG** and regulates many of Miki's complicated clocks.

Six of Miki's unique pieces will be on exhibition at the MB&F M.A.D. Gallery from the 19th of January until mid-February.

The **CONTINUUM MOBILE** is a timepiece powered by a falling weight and features a tourbillon visible above the oblique axis. The weight powers the gear train, causing it to advance. Miki calls the Continuum his "inspiration clock." When he doesn't have it, he is lost. When he is lost for inspiration, a situation that occurs, by his own admission, very rarely, Miki gazes at this clock. The winding mechanism is located within the column and it is rewound using a key to generate 100 hours of power reserve.

The **PENTOURBILLON** is a timepiece with a flying double tourbillon and two distinct mechanisms. On the left part of the clock was created the tourbillon to showcase the magic and beauty of its escapement. The petals of the flower at the back of the timepiece open and close as day transforms into night. The right part features a "simple" clock where the indicators are two long dials

LA LUNA is a double pendulum clock constructed from a 1.2 metre steel and chrome column. The jumping hour becomes visible before the full hour. In addition to the indication of the hours, minutes and seconds, the timepiece displays phases of the moon, signs of the zodiac and the different seasons.

N°26 has an Eleta chronometer escapement that produces an impulse every two seconds and holds a power reserve of eight days. The winding weight is astonishingly light – only 200 grams. The phase of the moon indicator makes up part of this weight and is linked 'mysteriously', i.e. without a visible mechanism, to the movement.

DIE SIEBEN is not a clock but a kinetic sculpture possessing tiny steel balls that travel through passageways, creating an interplay that is both visual and acoustic. Measuring nearly 1.4 metres in height and 60 centimetres in diameter, DIE SIEBEN chimes 16 different tones using 16 passageways around the clock's circumference, where the steel balls move along touching 16 pentatonic cylinders and 47 gears. These gears return the balls through the passageways to the sound of a tune that only repeats itself every seven years.

AN ATYPICAL PATH TAKEN BY A MAN OF MANY STORIES

Born in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1950, Miki Eleta was seven years old when he was awoken one morning by the sound of flamenco music. Music became a revelation for him. He got hold of a guitar, learned to play and decided during the summer of his twenty-third year to join his sister in Switzerland in search of the sort of work that would allow him to buy his own guitar. At the end of three months, he felt settled. In a corner of his mind, Miki nurtured the idea of creating his own machines one day. The first opportunity for a "job" arose when someone asked him to create a range of samples from different metals. Instead, Miki proposed to make a music machine differentiating all of these metals. At the beginning of the 1990s, Miki focused primarily on restoring antiques, then clocks, and finally watches.

Until 2000, Miki created kinetic sculptures. Then, in 2001, a client questioned the precision of his pieces.... Miki asked him for a year in which to create a full-fledged clock to prove that his work was precise. Knowing absolutely nothing about clock-making design, he contacted Paul Gerber, a member of the prestigious AHCI (Horological Academy of Independent Creators) and known for his innovative clockworks. Miki called upon this Bernese clockmaker for a complete explanation of the internal workings of a timepiece.

A year later, with the clock completed, the client did not return so Miki could not show him his working clock. This is only one anecdote among dozens illustrating the life of this eccentric clockmaker who blindly goes ahead with crazy ideas. Miki claims that he never could have become a normal clockmaker, convinced that higher education fashions individuals as if from a mould, spoiling any possibility of creativity and invention.

For nearly 15 years, Miki has divided his time between his two passions: his family and his creations.

Miki Eleta creates his extraordinary timepieces at the rate of approximately two unique pieces per year. To date, he has created 28 kinetic clocks, seven of which are still available through his workshop. The rest of the time, he occupies himself by cultivating tomatoes in his kitchen garden, located 300 metres from his workshop. He goes on bicycle rides with his wife and takes notes in the small notebook that he carries with him at all times. Sadly, these days he doesn't have much time to play the guitar... "I can't be everywhere at the same time," he admits. And what about holidays? Smiling widely through his greying beard, he replies, "What's a holiday?"

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