

Novelties at Kerbedanz

Squama Tourbillon, the deepest black with reptilian contours

The ultra-limited edition of this timepiece came out in March 2017, and it shows how the Neuchâtel-based brand continues to express its proclivity for a variety and fascinating intensities of blacks. As well as its mastery of the art of skeletonization.

In November 2016, at the *Salon des Grandes Complications* in Dubai, KERBEDANZ revealed for the first time the results of its adventure into the magical realm of the "dark art," with an "all black" look shot through with somber flashes and nuances. Now, with the grand watchmaking theater of Baselworld 2017 as its global amplifier, the brand has done it again, and true to its identifying values, it is unveiling its latest work of art, the Squama Tourbillon. A dial-maker's dream with fish scale decoration.

Allegories galore and journeys of initiation

KERBEDANZ, a company reflecting the epitome of excellence in watchmaking, recalls its core mission, namely to "give sense to beauty." It is the only brand making high-end mechanical watches with complication to have staked a claim in the realm of symbols and allegories, while producing unique pieces or ultra-limited series. It does so by inserting as many allusions to the secret life of the watch's buyer, combined with explicit references to historical periods and specific cultures. The work is done by CDO (chief designer officer) Aram Petrosyan as well as his team of designers. With their many subtle details and well-crafted, elegant elements, these timepieces are in fact journeys of initiation filled with fantastical references, stylistic touches and compendia of civilizations.

New techniques on a traditional canvas

The Swiss brand, KERBEDANZ, is a full-fledged master of the delightful blending of quintessential Swiss watchmaking traditions and the know-how inherited from a long family tradition of jewelry work. As such, it has full command of the core complications of unadulterated chronometry, like the tourbillon and the minute repeater, as well as more subtle techniques such as enameling, hand-engraving and miniature painting. Now, through its all-black collection, it is adding a complete line of the most avant-garde techniques with regards to the treatment of gold.



Full gold with a layer of 100 shades of black

In watchmaking, DLC stands for diamond-like carbon. It consists mainly of a treatment using graphite and hydrogen. To affix it onto any surface, be that a caliber's mechanical parts or the nooks and crannies of a watch case, goes well beyond the framework of the esthetic requirements of the timepiece's "100 shades of black." In addition to the sheer technical feat, this treatment is indeed the fulfillment of a fundamental horological quest dating back 200 years, namely to protect valuable watches by increasing their hardness and making them more resistant to friction. Master watchmakers from all periods always strived to make sure that their works of precious materials, such as gold, could resist the ravages of time.

Collectors and MIP

KERBEDANZ is much appreciated by MIPs – most important personalities, a term that designates those who have a genuine influence on their times. And so the brand creates timepieces that are either unique, or tailor-made, or in ultra-limited series, wristwatches that also meet the expectations of the most eager collectors. The introduction of absolute black into its collections adds modernism to its successful approach. It sublimates the architecture and the contours, highlights the care given to the beveled and polished parts, it transcends the meticulously furrowed lines of the engraving made by expert human hands.



((3'699 signs, 579 words))

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Squama Tourbillon Limited Edition

MOVEMENT

Tourbillon, manually-wound KRB-02 mechanical movement conceived, skeletonized and decorated by KERBEDANZ and Concepto. 21,600 beats per hour (3Hz), 72 hours power reserve. 341 components, 19 jewels, tourbillon cage made up of 80 parts and weighing 0.42 grams.

FUNCTIONS

Hours, minutes, tourbillon

CASE

18-karat gold, DLC-treated (diamond-like carbon), 46-millimeter diameter. Designed and manufactured by KERBEDANZ. Sapphire crystal front and back with anti-reflexive treatment. Water-resistant to 5 atmospheres (50 meters, 150 feet); crown is in an unusual position, between 1 and 2 o'clock.

DIAL, TECHNICAL PROWESS

Massive sculpted gold, hand-guilloché, fish-scale decoration, exclusively conceived, manufactured and applied by KERBEDANZ; indices in rose gold.

BAND

Alligator mississippiensis leather, double folding clasp in 18-karat, DLC-treated gold, personalized by KERBEDANZ.



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Reptilian allegories with fish-scale decoration

The dial backdrop of the Squama has a smooth look much like the skin of a serpent. In religion, mythology and literature, the serpent represents fertility and creative power. As mythical creatures, they sometimes appear part human, part dragon, and they inhabit many fantastical and mystical tales. In ancient Greece, Echidna, half woman, half snake, gave birth to a number of dragons. As for Cecrops, an Athenian hero, he had the head of a man on the body of a serpent. In Toltec and Aztec mythology, the winged and feathered Quetzalcoatl was a key figure. And in medieval Europe, the basilisk, a serpent with a dragon's body, was supposed to be able to kill just by looking at its victims. Melusina, another creature from European folklore, somewhere between a fish-woman and serpent-woman, had to spend a day per week in the water.