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Cover: Abbas Sajwani &
AHS Properties, Dubai
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TICK TACTICS

HERITAGE MEETS INVENTION IN THREE WATCHES THAT PUSH BOUNDARIES



U-BOAT celebrates 25 years with a limited edition of just 25 pieces of the Chimera, a watch that has defined the brand's identity since its debut. The 46mm case features a Damascus steel bezel, secured with five 18-carat yellow gold tension screws. Under sapphire-coated mineral glass, the black dial is divided into two parts: the upper section has a "carres" pattern – a grid of small, square textures that add structure and depth, while the lower portion is brushed metal with a gold finish and matching hands.

A gold-bordered sub-dial displays the 25th-anniversary logo, with a commemorative plaque at six o'clock and a curved date

window in the upper left. The patented crown release, in knurled 18-carat gold, sits at ten o'clock. A plaque on the opposite side shows the edition number.

The steel case back, with a mineral glass window and anniversary engraving, protects a modified ETA 2824 Top Soigne movement. Water resistant to 100 metres, it includes a custom brass and tungsten rotor with rhodium finish. The strap is handcrafted ostrich leather, while over 13 grams of gold are used throughout.

U-BOAT
► www.uboatwatch.com

Quiet Complexity

» The MB&F Special Project One (SP One) is a 38mm mechanical watch that distills twenty years of creative watchmaking into something unexpectedly refined. Encased in a smooth, pebble-like shell, the SP One balances elegance with technical complexity. Three key components – the barrel, balance wheel, and dial – appear suspended within a sapphire amphitheatre, a striking visual feat made possible by nearly invisible bridges and precise movement architecture.

The tilted dial and floating balance wheel are both functional and artistic, reinforcing MB&F's reputation for challenging convention. Delicate lugs rise independently from the lower case, enhancing the floating effect without disrupting the watch's flow. Though smaller and slimmer than previous models, the SP One retains MB&F's signature three-dimensional approach and clever hand-finishing. Its visual symmetry, conical gearing, and tactile feel make the SP One a watch that's subtle in form but rich in character. This watch may look classical at first glance, but in true MB&F fashion, it's anything but typical.



MB&F
► www.mbandf.com

Swiss Artistry

« Backes & Strauss introduces the Namib Queen of Hearts, a timepiece shaped by generations of craftsmanship and featuring diamonds from the Namib Desert.

The centrepiece of the watch is a collection of Fancy Intense Yellow diamonds, known for their deep golden hue and clarity. These diamonds originate from the Orange River, having formed over millions of years and eventually deposited in the desert landscape of Namibia. They rank among the rarest of natural diamonds.

The bezel features 36 heart-shaped Fancy Intense Yellow diamonds, each precisely cut and hand-selected. The dial, made from Mother of Pearl, is accented at the 12, 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions with four more

heart-shaped diamonds. At its centre, round brilliant Fancy Intense Yellow diamonds are cut to ideal proportions, giving the dial a rich, even glow.

This marks the first time that fancy colour diamonds have been cut to reveal the Hearts and Arrows pattern, typically seen in colourless diamonds, when viewed under magnification. The watch case is set with white Hearts & Arrows diamonds, creating a clear contrast to the yellow tones.

A mechanical movement powers the piece, visible through a sapphire crystal case back that reveals the detailing and precision of its Swiss construction.

Backes & Strauss
► www.backesandstrauss.com

