



REVELATION

MOVEMENT RO1 manufacture tourbillon
manège movement

CASE 18-carat rose gold and black PVD or
titanium and black PVD

STRAP Smooth black Barenia calfskin



A NEW KIND OF COMPLICATION

WATCH MOVEMENTS DO NOT HAVE THE MONOPOLY ON COMPLICATIONS AS THE NEW BRAND REVELATION PROVES WITH ITS HIGHLY COMPLICATED DIAL

BY SOPHIE FURLEY

My visit to the Revelation atelier in the little village of Lully also turned out to be quite a complicated affair. I searched high and low only to discover that there are actually three Lullys in Switzerland, and I wasn't in the right one! After a quick phone call to the brand's co-founder, Anouk Danthe, who was kind enough to wait for me, I took to the road again—this time with the right GPS coordinates—to discover a new part of Switzerland and a new watchmaking brand that was well worth the detour.

THE TEAM AND ITS INSPIRATION

The company was founded in 2007 by two industrial designers specialized in *haute horlogerie*, Ms. Anouk Danthe and Mr. Olivier Leu. This dynamic duo are “work and life partners,” as Danthe charmingly explains, and both have curriculum vitae that span the finest names in Swiss watchmaking.

The company was first formed under the name of *Créations Horlogères de Lully SA* while the couple worked on their new project. “When we started brainstorming ideas, we noticed that there was a gap between the ‘time machines’ offered by the independents and the watches of the big Swiss brands. We felt there was room for something in between—a statement timepiece that would be legible and beautifully designed,” Danthe explains. “It has definitely been a challenge, what with the lengthy development process and the financial crisis, but we launched our first piece in 2011 and things are really taking off.”

PLAYING WITH TIME

“Revelation” is the perfect name for this new brand, as the timepieces “reveal” the time and the movement beneath with a dial that can surprisingly change opaqueness.

The launch collection, the *R01*, is fitted with a cover that pops open much like an old-time pocket watch. Unlike the pocket watch, however, this cover has a sapphire crystal and indexes applied to it. When the cover is opened, the dial below changes from black to transparent, revealing a beautiful tourbillon movement beneath.

THE SECRET

This state-of-the-art technology, which is a mix of polarization and nanotechnology, is achieved using two sapphire crystal discs that sit on top of each other. Both have lines and grids etched into the surface that are invisible to the naked eye. When the design is aligned, the sapphire crystal dial is transparent and allows a beautiful view on the movement below. When the top disc turns 90 degrees, the lines form a block, creating a pure black dial. This technology was developed in association with the *Centre Suisse d'Electronique et Microtechnique*.

For this first collection, the turning mechanism is discretely positioned in the joint between the cover and the case, pivoting one of the sapphire crystals as the cover is opened. The brand wanted to offer a movement that would be worth “revealing” to go with this unique feature, so it commissioned a tour de force of watchmaking and engineering expertise (with engineers Noah Chevaux, Michel Belot and Philippe Ioset, as well as a watchmaker who prefers to remain anonymous) to have its very own tourbillon movement. It is, indeed, a stunning caliber that has been completely angled and polished by hand.

For those who want to see the tourbillon all the time, this movement is also available in an *R02* version without the cover and optical technology. And a third collection, the *R03*, offers a Dubois Dépraz chronograph which uses the same optical technology, but with the discs being activated through the bezel, which is at a more accessible price point of 12,900 CHF (the price of the *R01* starts at 172,800 CHF), so the brand is already offering a nice range of products.

A WATCHMAKING TWIST

Revelation provides fine watchmaking with a fun and complicated twist that is starting to capture the attention of the world's collectors. But don't take my word for it; go and see the brand for yourself for a demonstration and a play. Of course, you will have to find the village of Lully for that, but call the *Revolution* office if you happen to get lost, and I will be there to give you directions personally! ★

