



JAEGER-LECOULTRE ENRICHES THE RENDEZ-VOUS SONATINA 'PEACEFUL NATURE' SERIES WITH A NEW TRILOGY OF TIMEPIECES

- A joyful ode to nature, deeply imbued with traditional Oriental symbolism and showcasing some of the timeless crafts of Jaeger-LeCoultre Métiers Rares® atelier: lacquer work, miniature-painting and gem-setting
- Uniting the artistic traditions and craft skills of East and West, intricately decorated dials and highly sophisticated mechanisms celebrate femininity in refined and timeless style

Inspired by Asia's centuries-long artistic tradition of depicting the natural world, Jaeger-LeCoultre enriches the Rendez-Vous Sonatina 'Peaceful Nature' series with three new timepieces. An exquisitely feminine expression of time that celebrates both precision and artistry, the new trilogy unites Eastern and Western artistic traditions and links the richness of rare decorative crafts with the technical sophistication of high watchmaking.

As a joyful ode to nature and its special place in the Asian artistic tradition, the new Rendez-Vous Sonatina trilogy calls upon three of the decorative crafts that Jaeger-LeCoultre has so thoroughly mastered in its Métiers Rares® (Rare Handcrafts™) atelier: miniature-painting, lacquer work and gem-setting.

The use of lacquer, with its incomparable translucence and rich lustre, draws on deep links between Asian craft and European style. An ancient craft, of which the first known examples date back to the end of the Neolithic period, *urushi* lacquer was first brought from Asia to the West in the 16th century. Highly prized for its precious appearance and exotic origins, it has had a profound impact on European art and taste ever since.

Plants and animals have always been highly symbolic in Asian cultures, imbued with special powers and attributes, and scenes from nature play an important role in Asian art history. Closely studying the correct forms and anatomy of plants and animals, artists have for centuries reproduced them in delicate and highly accurate detail. Nature-painting reached its apogee with "flower-and-bird pictures" (known as *kachōga* in Japan and *Hwajohwa* in Korea), although subjects were not limited only to flowers or birds, and those elements did not necessarily appear together. It is this tradition that Jaeger-LeCoultre's



designers and Métiers Rares® artists have interpreted on the dials of the new timepieces, uniting the crafts of lacquer work, miniature-painting and gem-setting with consummate skill.

Three dials; three images – each telling powerfully symbolic story

Peaceful Nature – Crane: Against a background of deep blue-green lacquer, a crane (*tsuru* in Japan) hovers above a pine tree, the arc of its wings following the curving lines of the dial layout. Revered throughout Asia as an auspicious sign, the crane embodies happiness and a soaring spirit. Symbolising longevity because it was thought to live for 1,000 years, and being monogamous, it often appears in wedding décor, representing a long and peaceful life for the couple. The pine tree, as an evergreen, is also considered a symbol of longevity and virtue.

Peaceful Nature – Kingfisher: A golden-brown dial is adorned with the delicately painted branches of a red quince tree – also a symbol of longevity, renewed and rejuvenated by the reappearance of its blossom every spring. Amid its red blooms perches a kingfisher (*hisui* in Japan; *cuiniao* in China). A harbinger of summer, the kingfisher is a positive symbol in almost every cultural tradition, representing beauty and virtue, fidelity and devotion, faithfulness and happy marriage.

Peaceful Nature – Koi: On the black dial, a vivid orange-coloured koi swims beneath the gently rippling surface of a pond, framed by the spreading branches of a willow tree – a symbol of spring and, thus, of romance and feminine charm. The delicate qualities of the willow are balanced by the strength of the koi – believed to confer strength of purpose, courage and perseverance in the face of adversity, bringing the rewards of success, abundance and good fortune.

A tour-de-force of skill, artistry and infinite patience

Executed entirely by hand in the Jaeger-LeCoultre Métiers Rares® atelier, each of these dial exquisite compositions has been brought to life by the artisan in a remarkable ballet of skill and precision over the course of many weeks. To begin, the artisan prepares an absolutely pristine dial surface, then starts the work of building up the gradient colour of the lacquer, layer by layer, to create a richly gleaming background. Only after the layers of lacquer have been fully hardened, can the painting begin.

First, guided only by eye and hand, the artisan applies miniscule dots of gold lacquer paint to imitate the effect of *maki-e* lacquer (a technique, perfected during the Japanese Edo period, of sprinkling gold powder or fragments of gold leaf onto wet lacquer to create a gradient effect). Next, in a manner similar to oil painting on canvas but on a microscopic scale, the detailed image is formed, one tiny brushstroke at a time – a process taking some 35–40 hours of painstaking and highly focused work. As a final touch, elements of each image are highlighted with tiny gold *paillons* (flakes), painstakingly applied. Lifelike in detail, with a remarkable sense of movement and visual depth, each of these miniature works of art is imbued with the artisan's personality and passion, making all of them very subtly different. Finally, multiple layers of translucent lacquer are applied, to seal the completed painting in a lustrous and everlasting coat.



In its composition, the Rendez-Vous Sonatina dial is asymmetrical yet perfectly balanced, anchored by the collection's signature Floral hands and numerals. The applied numerals, graduated in size, form a crescent that wraps around the delicate painting. A fine oval-shaped ring of diamonds runs beneath the applied numerals, drawing the eye to the painted image and complementing a glittering circle of grain-set diamonds on the bezel. In the midst of each image, visible through an oval-shaped aperture, the Night & Day indicator completes one rotation every 24 hours in an endless dance of sun, moon and stars.

Set on the edge of the dial, a delicate golden star marks the time of a special rendezvous or meeting, which can be moved into position by a second crown set in the side of the case. When the time comes, a single strike on a gong concealed within the watch mechanism releases a melodious chime to remind the owner of her appointment.

This poetic and whimsical expression of femininity is brought to life by the technical sophistication of Jaeger-LeCoultre's Manufacture Calibre 735, a self-winding movement with a chiming complication and night-day indicator developed specially for the Sonatina. The elegant complexity and fine details of this mechanism is fully revealed by the transparent sapphire case-back.

To complete these watchmaking treasures, an alligator leather strap, complementing the dial colour and given a glowing, pearlised finish, is fastened to the wrist by a pink gold folding buckle.

As a joyful and refined expression of femininity, with exquisite dials complemented by highly sophisticated mechanisms, the Rendez-Vous Sonatina 'Peaceful Nature' series is testament to the remarkable skills of Jaeger-LeCoultre's Métiers Rares® craftsmen in both technical execution and aesthetic expression. Perpetuating the cultural exchange between East and West that has been so important to the world of the arts for centuries, and limited to 10 examples of each watch, the new Rendez-Vous Sonatina timepieces are available exclusively from Jaeger-LeCoultre boutiques.



TECHNICAL DETAILS

RENDEZ-VOUS SONATINA PEACEFUL NATURE – CRANE

RENDEZ-VOUS SONATINA PEACEFUL NATURE – KINGFISHER

RENDEZ-VOUS SONATINA PEACEFUL NATURE – KOI

Dimensions: 38.2mm diameter x 10.59mm thick

Calibre: Self-winding Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 735

Functions: Hours, minutes, seconds; Rendez-vous indicator, Night& Day indicator

Power reserve: 40 hours

Case: Pink gold 750/1000 (18 Karats)

Case-back: Open

Water resistance: 5 bar

Strap: Shiny alligator

Diamonds: 160 (for 1.86 carats)

Reference: Q35924J1/J2/J3

Limited edition of 10 pieces each

ABOUT THE STELLAR ODYSSEY

In 2022 Jaeger-LeCoultre pays homage to the astronomical phenomena that lie at the very origin of how mankind measures time. Since the earliest days of the Manufacture, astronomical functions have played a major role in Jaeger-LeCoultre's portfolio of complicated timepieces – ranging from simple forms of moon phase display to highly complex perpetual calendars, equation of time, sky charts, and the draconic and anomalistic lunar cycles. Mastering all three measures of time – solar, lunar and sidereal – the watchmakers of La Grande Maison have perpetually innovated to create the most advanced and precise mechanisms that represent or even predict celestial phenomena. This year, Jaeger-LeCoultre embarks on a Stellar Odyssey with an immersive exhibition and a series of themed events that will embrace inspirational collaborations with a visual artist and a mixologist, and a fascinating programme of celestially-themed Discovery Workshops at Atelier d'Antoine. The Stellar Odyssey is an invitation to discover how the mysteries of the cosmos are translated into micro-mechanical wonders for the wrist.

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