



THE REVERSO TRIBUTE ENAMEL SERIES PAYS TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE MONET'S VENICE

THREE NEW TIMEPIECES FINELY HAND-DECORATED WITHIN THE MÉTIERS RARES™ ATELIER

Key facts:

- *An homage to Venice, as seen by a great Impressionist Master*
- *The timeless design of the Reverso showcases the skills of the Métiers Rares™ Atelier*
- *Three limited-edition pieces express Jaeger-LeCoultre's vision of art and culture*

To coincide with its participation in the Homo Faber Biennial exhibition in Venice this September, Jaeger-LeCoultre pays homage to the host city with three new limited-edition Reverso Tribute Enamel timepieces. The case-back of each piece features a miniature reproduction of one of Claude Monet's paintings of Venice, reaffirming the Reverso as an ideal canvas for artistic expression.

An Homage to Venice, Captured by the Great Impressionist Master, Claude Monet

Painted late in his career, Monet's 'Venice Series' paintings exquisitely render the architecture and exceptional light of Venice that immediately captivated the artist when he and his wife arrived in *La Serenissima* in autumn 1908. At first declaring the city "too beautiful to paint", Monet soon set to work, choosing a dozen different sites and painting them repeatedly at different times of day to capture the changing light. It was a prolific period: during his 10-week stay, Monet painted 37 images.

Intricate Works of Craftsmanship Celebrating the Métiers Rares™ Atelier

Homo Faber's mission to honour and promote craft in all of its forms closely mirrors Jaeger-LeCoultre's commitment to support not only the craft skills of watchmaking but also the artistic crafts associated with Haute Horlogerie. With the new Reverso Tribute Enamel 'Venice Series' timepieces, La Grande Maison showcases the talents and skills of the Manufacture's in-house Métiers Rares™ (Rare Handcrafts) Atelier - bringing together the crafts of miniature painting, enamelling and guilloché - while paying tribute to the mission that it shares with Homo Faber.

The first of many challenges in decorating the case-back was to reproduce original works measuring more than 65 x 92 cm onto a surface of 25 x 20 mm. It was not only a feat of miniaturisation to perfectly



mimic every detail of Monet's paintings; the enameller also had to create an illusion of the impasto (the textured effect of thicker paint that the artist applied when he finished the canvases in his studio at Giverny) and recreate the dreamlike quality of the originals, with their fleeting effects of light and atmosphere. It required 14 layers of enamel to achieve the desired intensity and depth of colour – three base layers, four layers of painting and seven layers of translucent 'fondant', with up to 15 separate firings at up to 800° Celsius.

The three dials, decorated with hand-guilloché patterns beneath translucent coloured enamel, are an eloquent artistic response to the miniature paintings on the case-backs. The enamelling alone requires eight or nine hours of work for each dial, with up to five layers of enamel and six or seven separate firings at up to 800°C. The final challenge is the faultless application of the indexes (requiring tiny holes to be drilled through the pristine enamel) and the transfer of the chemin de fer minutes register. The simplicity of the Reverso Tribute design codes – faceted appliqué hour-markers and Dauphine hands – places full value on the beauty of the decoration.

Three Celebrated Artworks Complemented by Jaeger-LeCoultre's Vision of Art and Culture

San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk. Chosen as the setting for the Homo Faber Biennial, the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, opposite St Mark's Square, captivated Monet. In this view, painted as the sun set behind the island, the emphasis is on light, colours and reflections, reducing the buildings to a silhouette that anchors the composition. The miniaturised reproduction of Monet's celebrated painting required approximately 70 hours of meticulous work. The dial features grand feu enamel in a shade of blue that perfectly complements the colours of the sky on the case-back painting. Echoing the geometric lines of the Reverso's Art Deco design, the herringbone guilloché pattern comprises 120 separate lines, each of which requires three passages of the lathe, making 360 lines altogether – a meticulous task that takes eight hours to complete.

The Grand Canal Venice. With a remarkable sense of depth and movement, this spellbinding view across the Grand Canal was painted in the afternoon. The church of Santa Maria della Salute appears to be floating on the water, its architectural details sublimated to the effect of the hazy light. The case-back that faithfully reproduces this masterwork required almost 70 hours of enamelling work. The wavy hand-guilloché pattern on the dial – which took eight hours of meticulous work to create – repeats the reflections on the water's surface depicted in Monet's painting. The visual effect of the waves is amplified by layers of translucent grand feu enamel in a soft shade of green that matches the water.

The Doge's Palace. Painted from a gondola in the middle of Grand Canal at 8.00am, this view of the Doge's Palace beautifully evokes the effect of morning light on the water. "The palace...was just an excuse for painting the atmosphere," Monet wrote to a friend. To reproduce the shimmering beauty of this painting, Jaeger-LeCoultre's enameller worked for almost 70 hours in total. On the dial, the lozenge guilloché pattern creates constantly changing effects of light and shade as it is turned at different angles, echoing Monet's fascination with the effect of light on water at different times of day. Amplified by rich



layers of translucent blue grand feu enamel, the geometric pattern comprises 981 lines, each of which requires five passages of the lathe. With a total of 4,905 passages of hand-operated lathe altogether, this highly skilled work takes eight hours to complete.

Offered in a limited edition of 10 pieces each, the Reverso Tribute Enamel 'Venice Series' is a fine tribute to the city that hosts the Homo Faber Biennial and a superb marriage of fine watchmaking with the decorative crafts of guillochage, enamelling and miniature painting.

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

REVERSO TRIBUTE ENAMEL MONET – SAN GIORGIO MAGGIORE

Case: 18-karat white gold (750/1000)

Dimensions: 45.6 x 27.4 mm x 9.73 mm thick

Calibre: Manually-wound Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 822

Functions: Hours, minutes

Power Reserve: 42 hours

Front dial: Herringbone guilloché, Grand Feu enamel

Case-back: Miniature-painted Grand-Feu enamel

Water resistance: 3 bar

Strap: Black alligator

Reference: Q39334M4

REVERSO TRIBUTE ENAMEL MONET – THE GRAND CANAL

Case: 18-karat white gold (750/1000)

Dimensions: 45.6 x 27.4 mm x 9.73 mm thick

Calibre: Manually-wound Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 822

Functions: Hours, minutes

Power Reserve: 42 hours

Front dial: Wavy guilloché, Grand Feu enamel

Case-back: Miniature-painted Grand-Feu enamel

Water resistance: 3 bar

Strap: Black alligator

Reference: Q39334M5

REVERSO TRIBUTE ENAMEL MONET – THE DOGES' PALACE

Case: 18-karat white gold (750/1000)

Dimensions: 45.6 x 27.4 mm x 9.73 mm thick

Calibre: Manually-wound Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 822

Functions: Hours, minutes

Power Reserve: 42 hours

Front dial: Lozenge guilloché pattern, Grand Feu enamel



Case-back: Miniature-painted Grand-Feu enamel

Water resistance: 3 bar

Strap: Black alligator

Reference: Q39334M6

About Homo Faber

Homo Faber 2024: The Journey of Life takes place in Venice from 1 to 30 September. It is the third edition of Homo Faber Biennial, a celebration of contemporary craftsmanship curated by the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship, a non-profit institution based in Switzerland, which champions craftspeople worldwide with the aim of promoting a more human, inclusive and sustainable future. homofaber.com

About Jaeger-LeCoultre – The Watchmaker of Watchmakers™

Since 1833, driven by an unquenchable thirst for innovation and creativity, and inspired by the peaceful natural surroundings of its home in the Vallée de Joux, Jaeger-LeCoultre has been distinguished by its mastery of complications and the precision of its mechanisms. Known as the Watchmaker of Watchmakers™, the Manufacture has expressed its relentlessly inventive spirit through the creation of more than 1,400 different calibres and the award of more than 430 patents. Harnessing over 190 years of accumulated expertise, La Grande Maison's watchmakers design, produce, finish and ornament the most advanced and precise mechanisms, blending passion with centuries-old savoir-faire, linking the past to the future, timeless but always up with the times. With 180 skills brought together under one roof, the Manufacture creates fine timepieces that combine technical ingenuity with aesthetic beauty and a distinctively understated sophistication.

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