



THE fine watch EXHIBITION

Home Design was privileged to be invited to the Saatchi Gallery in London's Chelsea for this year's Fine Watch Exhibition



Words Carrie St James

The Fine Watch Exhibition in London is where the most beautiful watches in the world are on display and available to try on. No pressure by sales people, just an opportunity to find out about and get to see first hand some of the most amazing jewellery watches in the world.

From Chopard to Harry Winston, Jaeger-LeCoultre and Piaget, we saw a dazzling array of stunning wrist jewellery. No more

the humble watch, and perhaps in response to a growing interest among women, ultra-slim time pieces now crafted with diamonds, rubies and sapphires are adornments in their own right.

We were particularly impressed by the unique stand of Matthias Naeschke, a skilled clock-maker from Haigerloch, a small village in the south of Germany, high above the Eyach Valley. With his son, Sebastian and two master craftsmen, Matthias creates elegant and sophisticated clocks by working in the traditional manner and with tried-and-trusted hand tools that have been passed down through generations.

It is surprising to realise these beautiful objects have all been crafted by hand and not made by a piece of high-tech machinery, so understandably each one takes several months to finish. You'd have to really love your work to spend so much of your life on one clock but as Edmund Bartlett, their charming and knowledgeable commercial director made clear, they are artists who cherish each piece.

As well as being a clock-maker and a designer, Matthias is a church musician and a well-known restorer of antique organ clocks. Not only have this father and son duo revived the dying art of organ clocks, they constantly push the boundaries of clock-making by refining their art and listening to what their customers want.

Matthias Naeschke is the only known maker of organ clocks and we were lucky enough to see some of his precious pieces firsthand at the exhibition. We especially liked the NL500, which took four months to finish and is a triumph of design and precision.

The talking point of the Matthias Naeschke stand had to be the musical clock, La Cage D'or, a gilded brass cage carved by a sculptor in Paris with romantic porcelain decoration, also hand-made. A feathered bird sits on a perch inside and when the clock strikes, the bird sings. When the cage is hanging up you can see the clock face underneath, and when it strikes, the feathered bird moves its beak and tail and quivers its body. Only two have ever been made and one has gone to a collector. **HD**



- 1 Matthias Naeschke and son, Sebastian
- 2 Signature on all Matthias Naeschke clocks
- 3 Baroque birdcage
- 4 Birdcage automation
- 5 Table clock NT1 "la beauté"

more info?

Technical information and data can be obtained from Edmund Bartlett at naeschke@proserpine.co.uk