

Louis Moinet Unveils Four Solar System-Inspired Tourbillon Watches, Each with its Own Genuine Meteorite

Four Watches Unite to Complete One-of-a-kind Planetarium Display, Creating Pièce de résistance for Ultimate Watch Collector

Research Triangle Park, NC (January 20, 2010) - [Louis Moinet North America](#) , which safeguards the 200 year old legacy of renowned watchmaker Louis Moinet, once again brings unprecedented artistic and technical innovation to the watch world with the unveiling of four new Tourbillon watches, and a one-of-its-kind artist-commissioned display. Together, the four [Meteoris](#) watches uniquely unite the most legendary meteorites and depict the solar system in spectacular fashion, with each watch featuring a unique authenticated meteorite and a beautiful design inspired by that meteorite's history and/or origin.

The Meteoris Tourbillon Mars proudly displays the first stone from Mars ever used in watch making. That stone is finely inlaid into a hand-engraved dial and adorned with an astrolabe-type appliqué. The case is crafted from 18-carat white gold set with 56 baguette-cut Top Wesselton VVS diamonds totaling 3.46 carats. This meteorite was discovered in the Sultanate of Oman in 2008, and has been authenticated by the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow.

The Meteoris Tourbillon Rosetta Stone features the meteorite by the same name which is believed to be the oldest known rock in the solar system and the oldest meteorite ever found on earth, with an estimated age of 4,566,200,000 years. The extraordinary case is crafted in 18-carat rose gold and comprises 50 different parts. This meteorite was found in Sahara in 1999, and has been authenticated by the Institute für Planetology, Münster, Germany.

The meteorite adorning the hand-engraved dial of the Meteoris Tourbillon Asteroid comes from Itqiy, a mysterious asteroid that was formed near the sun. Itqiy has provided invaluable scientific information on the formation of the solar system, while its own formation remains a mystery. The "Asteroid" is housed in an 18-carat white gold case set with baguette-cut diamonds and engraved with the legend "Pièce Unique". Itqiy was discovered in the Western Sahara in 1990, and has been authenticated by the University of Arizona, Tucson.

The first tourbillon to display an authentic lunar meteorite, the Meteoris Tourbillon Moon is distinguished by its dark structure featuring a number of fine occlusions and its 18-carat rose gold case. This meteorite was discovered in the Sultanate of Oman, in 2001 and has been authenticated by UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles.

Inspired by the lure, romance and mystery of the solar system, these Meteoris watches follow in the footsteps of Louis Moinet's one-of-a-kind [Magistralis](#), the world's first watch featuring a piece of the moon, introduced in 2008; and the family of [Jules Verne](#) watches introduced by Louis Moinet in 2009.

As with other Louis Moinet tourbillons, the magic of the Meteoris tourbillon movement is intensified by connecting its carriage to the barrel by means of a hand-drawn and beveled vertical bar. Each watch also features an openworked version of the barrel, with a cover that performs an average rotation in six hours. Louis Moinet displays its determination to combine aesthetic and technical aspects, particularly through the vertical bar that showcases the technology of the watch, while extending over onto the case. This original and modern way of uniting displays, technology and casing is directly inspired by the historical world of Louis Moinet, and especially by some of the drawings published in his famous *Traité d'Horlogerie* in 1848.

Exclusive to the Meteoris, however, is the hand-wound tourbillon movement that beats at a cadence of 21,600 vibrations per hour. Each watch provides spectacular visibility of the winding mechanism through its case-back. The "octopus" spring plays three roles by acting as pull-out piece spring, lever spring and click spring. Each Meteoris is presented in its own exceptional case composed of 50 different parts, with Louis Moinet's patent pending crown guard. Each watch also depicts a hand engraving on the dial depicting the meteorite's trajectory towards the earth, represented by a pietersite gemstone placed beneath the hands.

The *Pièce de résistance* for watch collectors may be the artist-commissioned Meteoris mechanical planetarium display, which depicts the entire solar system. Mercury, Venus, the Earth, the Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are all shown gravitating around the Sun. This work of art represents a major technical feat, since the vast majority of planetariums show a limited number of planets.

To provide a better understanding of the solar system, the mechanical Meteoris display accelerates rotation speed, enabling the Earth to rotate around the Sun in 37 seconds instead of the usual 365 days. The display's finely fashioned dial indicates the position of each planet within the zodiac sign through which it is crossing. The midnight-blue lacquered dial is sprinkled with silver spangles. Each of the twelve constellations is adorned with gold dust and the 154 stars are represented by rhodiumed set with Top Wesselton VVS diamonds totaling 5.60 carats.

"At Louis Moinet, we take great pride in introducing watches that truly are one-of-a-kind or limited-edition mechanical works of art," said Michael Brader-Araje, president of Louis Moinet North America. "We may have outdone ourselves with this family of Meteoris watches, each a work of art in its own right. By bringing them all together in spectacular fashion with the planetarium display, we have created an even more amazing piece for one lucky watch connoisseur, watch collector or dreamer."

The complete Meteoris collection, including the four watches and planetarium display, is available now and is priced at \$4.7 million.

About Louis Moinet Timepieces

Louis Moinet was a renowned expert in the creation of fine timepieces, many of which were acquired by the wealthiest and most influential people throughout the Western world, including Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon, James Monroe and King George IV. In 1848, Moinet wrote his famous *Traité d'Horlogerie* (Treatise on Watchmaking), which is still regarded as one of the world's most comprehensive and skillfully

written books on the subject. Today, a limited supply of Louis Moinet timepieces is available for esteemed watch collectors and connoisseurs. For more information on Louis Moinet's exclusive collection of luxury timepieces, please visit www.LMTime.com.

Note to editors: Photos are available.

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