***TIME FAST D8***

**Race cars meet Swiss watchmaking**

*L’Epée 1839 x ECAL – Georg Foster*

L’Epée 1839 takes us behind the wheel of the Time Fast. This vintage-inspired race car and a modern clock in one is a kinetic sculpture that tells the time.

It was designed by Georg Foster, a promising young newcomer and major contributor to this second collaboration between ECAL (Ecole cantonale d’art de Lausanne) and the Swiss manufacture.

The piece features a number of eye-catching details, such as the long protruding engine hood, the typical 1950s radiator grill, the large spoked wheels, the driving seat positioned to the rear and the sloping back section. Its overall sporty feel is reinforced by its elegant design, flawless finishes and fluid lines.

The name of the Time Fast D8 clearly conveys its technical aspirations, incorporating a motor that can last 8 days—or rather an in-house caliber with a 192-hour power reserve beating at 18,000 vibrations per hour.

This kinetic sculpture displays the hours and minutes like a race number, allowing the time to be easily read on the side of the chassis. A figure sits in the cockpit, where a glass dome, or rather a driver’s helmet, highlights the thrumming escapement. In front of him is the steering wheel, which adopts the three-spoke design typically seen in race cars, serving to set the time.

Meanwhile, in a subtle nod to childhood memories, the mechanical motor is wound just like a pull-back car.

With 289 ultra-precise mechanical components finished with the greatest care, Time Fast promises its owner nothing but pure pleasure and sensations.

Measuring 38 cm long, 16 cm wide and 12 high and weighing just 4.7 kg, this race car is by no means lacking in stature and could easily have come straight from one of the greatest motorsports stables.

**Time Fast D8 is a limited edition: 100 pieces per body color, initially produced in Red, Blue, Green, Blue with white stripes and White with blue stripes versions.**

**Design & Inspiration**

For all generations, classic 50s cars are firmly ingrained in the collective subconscious and imagination. Single-seaters boasting a sleek design, fluid lines and assertive aerodynamics, they fuel many a dream.

Time Fast, which was designed by Georg Foster while he was a master’s student at ECAL, draws inspiration from a dream of becoming a race driver, or simply the desire to experience the thrills of speed. To create this realistically proportioned mechanical sculpture, he drew on his childhood memories to add symbols and representations, such as boards, bodywork and steering wheels.

A fan of motorsport, Georg remembers the typical sound of the smoldering engines and the metallic clicking that follows a mad race, almost echoing the tick-tock of Time Fast D8’s escapement.

The shaping and production were entirely entrusted to the manufacture’s passionate teams, predominantly comprised of automotive enthusiasts. With the exception of the raw aluminum casting, the crystals and the jewels, which are sourced from elsewhere, every piece has passed through the hands of the twenty or so experts within the L’Epée 1839 workshops.

**Automotive and horological functions**

In motor racing, it's well known that although the driver is the only one to be first over the finish line, his entire team helps to make this victory possible by achieving the impossible. What applies to the track also applies to life as a whole. The teams of designers, engineers and watchmakers therefore embraced the challenge of producing an exceptional and unique clock incorporating all the elements of a race car. Every detail has been carefully considered to intimately interlink form and function to spark a renewed fascination for kinetic sculptures.

The engine consists of a tiered movement with an 8-day power reserve that was entirely developed to hug the curves of the bodywork.

The hours and minutes are displayed on the side through an aperture resembling a typical competition number, via two engraved stainless steel disks. On the other side of the chassis is the advertising spot, the characteristic circle on iconic race cars, which can be optionally customized to create a personalized car, by means of an engraving, for example (the L’Epée 1839 logo comes as standard).

In the cockpit, the car’s steering wheel, which has been specially designed to incorporate the time-setting wheel, can be used to adjust the time if theengine ever breaks down. Located in the driver’s seat, a counterclockwise adjustment adjusts the time, while clockwise adjustment can be used to reposition the steering wheel once the correct time is set.

Time Fast D8 needs to be filled up (with mechanical energy) once every week. The mechanical movement's barrel is wound by moving the wheels in reverse to provide the car with the power it requires to remain fully functional. Meanwhile drive mode is simply designed to provide unimpeded delight.

**The car’s structure**

Just like a normal-sized car, Time Fast D8 is formed of solid aluminum body parts, as well as components as small as an escapement wheel (measuring just a few millimeters across). But here, each part is individually and impeccably finished , whether decorated, polished, satin finished or sand-blasted by hand.

L’Epée 1839 presents an interpretation of the car where the human being, symbolized by the escapement, is placed at the heart of the car. Safely installedand protected by a glass dome (the helmet), it sets the pace, just like a driver regulating the power of the engine.

The movement’s plates form the chassis. Each has been designed with great attention to detail, symbolizing for instance the engine block of old race cars. As if to cool the motor constantly running at 18,000 vibrations per hour, the radiator grill is openworked to reveal the manufacturer’s emblem. A dual exhaust provides one final nod to the automotive world.

Particular attention has been paid to the four wheels, whose spoked rims are wrapped in soft rubber for greater grip, providing excellent transmission of power during winding.

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***TIME FAST D8***

***Technical specifications***

Limited edition: 100 pieces per color

References

* 74.6004/184 White with blue stripes
* 74.6004/134 Green
* 74.6004/144 Blue
* 74.6004/164 Red

Number of components: total of 289 parts

Weight: 4.7 kg

Dimensions: 38.5 cm long x 16 cm wide x 12 cm high

**Functions**

Hour and minute display

Time set via counterclockwise rotation of the steering wheel

A clockwise rotation serves to reposition the steering wheel as desired.

The clock is wound using the rear wheels:

Reverse the car to fill it up i.e. wind the barrel, supplying the clock mechanism with energy.

The car can move freely forwards.

**Engine**

Tiered mechanical movement, L’Epée 1839 1855 MHD in-house caliber

Escapement: 18,000 vib/hour

26 jewels

Power reserve: 8 days

Materials: nickel- and palladium-plated brass, polished stainless steel, colored with the use of automotive lacquers.

Incabloc protection system

**Bodywork and wheels**

Blown glass dome, machined and polished to simulate the driver’s helmet

Front and rear bodywork in aluminum

Automotive painting

Spoked rims in stainless steel

Tires in hard-wearing rubber

**Finishes**

Polished and sand-blasted movement (plates and wheels) / Satin-finished struts (stringers) / Polished and satin-finished rims / Painted bodywork

***TIME FAST D8***

***Georg Foster, designer + ECAL***

Son of an engineer, Georg Foster (26) discovered a passion for mechanics at a young age. After studying design in London (London College of Communication and Central Saint Martins), Georg continued his professional development in the fields of furniture, jewelry and accessories, working in particular on artisanally produced motorbike helmets. This varied experience brought him closer to the world of luxury, know-how and high-precision work. In 2017, he enrolled in a Master of Advanced Studies in Design for Luxury and Craftsmanship at ECAL (Ecole cantonale d’art de Lausanne). Established 10 years ago, this program brought him into direct contact with industry professionals, enabling him to work with prestigious brands in the fields of tableware, fashion, gastronomy, cosmetics and fine watchmaking.

During his studies, thanks to a partnership with L’Epée 1839, he was able to work on a project that combined two of his favorite disciplines: precision mechanics (watchmaking) and travel (Georg lived in several African countries, as well as Turkey and the UK before moving to Switzerland, where he is partly from). His idea was to design a car, and more precisely a monocoque single-seater whose shape recalls the vehicles taking part in classic races since the very invention of the automobile.

**ECAL/Ecole cantonale d’art de Lausanne**

Internationally renowned in the fields of design, photography, graphic design, film, new technologies and art, ECAL constantly features in the top five art and design schools. Directed by Alexis Georgacopoulos since 2011, ECAL has flourished in the creative industry thanks notably to its competitions, which involve globally renowned qualified practitioners, artists and designers, and its numerous collaborative projects and commissions from companies or cultural institutions. These allow its students to acquire sound expertise and enjoy stimulating practical experiences.

**The Master of Advanced Studies in Design for Luxury & Craftsmanship**

This one-of-a-kind program is aimed at students who already have a bachelor’s or master’s degree and want to perfect their design skills or enter fields of excellence as varied as fine watchmaking, tableware, fashion, gastronomy, artistic crafts or the use of noble materials through specific techniques. Every year since 2012, this program has enabled around fifteen students from around the world to work on collaborative projects with prestigious companies benefiting from centuries of heritage, and allowed them to take part in workshops presented by major figures on the international design scene.

***TIME FAST D8***

***L’EPEE 1839—Switzerland's leading clock manufacture***

L’Epée has been a prominent clockmaking firm for more than 180 years. Today, it is the only manufacture in Switzerland to specialize in the production of high-end clocks. Founded in 1839 by Auguste L’Epée in France’s Besançon region, the company originally focused on producing music boxes and watch components. Even at this early stage, the brand was synonymous with entirely hand-made pieces.

Starting in 1850, the manufacture became a leader in producing escapements and began to develop special regulators for alarm clocks, table clocks and musical watches. It gained wide recognition and filed numerous patents for special escapements, particularly for use in its anti-knocking, auto-starting and constant force systems. L’Epée became the principal supplier of several famous clockmakers and went on to win many gold medals at World Fairs.

During the 20th century, the firm owed its success largely to its remarkable travel clocks. Many associate the L’Epée brand with influential individuals and people in positions of power. Members of the French government often gave clocks to their distinguished guests. When the Concorde supersonic airplane began its commercial flights in 1976, L’Epée fitted the cabins with wall clocks to give passengers the time. In 1994, the brand demonstrated its penchant for challenges by constructing the largest pendulum clock in the world, the “Giant Regulator”, which features in the Guinness Book of Records.

L’Epée 1839 is currently based in Delémont in the Swiss Jura Mountains. With CEO Arnaud Nicolas at the helm, it has developed an exceptional collection of table clocks that includes an entire range of sophisticated clocks.

The collection focuses on three themes:

Creative Art - Artistic pieces first and foremost, often developed in partnership with external designers as joint creations. These clocks surprise, inspire and even shock the most seasoned collectors. They are intended for those consciously or unconsciously looking for exceptional objects that are one of a kind.

Contemporary Timepieces - Technical creations with a contemporary design (Le Duel, Duet, etc.) and minimalist, avant-garde models (La Tour) incorporating complications such as retrograde seconds, power reserve indicators, moon phases, tourbillons, chiming mechanisms or perpetual calendars.

Carriage Clocks - Lastly, classic travel clocks, also known as “officers’ clocks”. These historical pieces issued from the brand’s heritage also feature their fair share of complications: chiming mechanisms, minute repeaters, calendars, moon phases, tourbillons and more.

All pieces are designed and manufactured in-house. Their technical prowess, combination of Form and Function, very long power reserves and remarkable finishes have become signature features of the brand.