**– Time Tales –**

**L’Epée 1839’s Bold Reimagination of the**

**Cuckoo clock**

**Time isn’t just counted — it is celebrated!**

Introducing the L’Epée 1839 Time Tales: A complex and contemporary reimagining of the traditional Swiss Cuckoo clock, L’Epée 1839 blends nostalgia with the Maison’s boundless creativity, signature playful ingenuity, and demonstration of its ability to develop complex mechanical marvels. Inspired by the whimsical magic of childhood cartoons, L’Epée 1839 breathes new life into this beloved heirloom.

With a total of 1,241 components, L’Epée 1839’s Time Tales brings time to life through its complex in-house mechanical movement. Every hour and half-hour, the signature cuckoo appears from its hidden perch, singing along with the chimes—striking the hours and a single note on the half-hour. The music box then plays its melody, while a double automaton brings mischievous figurines to life in a playful dance, making timekeeping an experience rather than just a measure.

Inspired by the Four Wise Monkeys philosophy and vintage cartoons, Time Tales reflects values dear to the Maison; a blend of playful audacity and a lighthearted reminder to treasure how we spend our time.

More than just a clock, Time Tales is a finely tuned mechanical masterpiece that brings time to life through movement and sound. Designed for versatility, its fully mechanical “computer”, developed entirely in-house, offers complete control—allowing to activate each function on demand, mute elements individually, or pre-program a silent mode for a truly personalized experience.

At its heart, Time Tales features three distinct movements, able to function independently or together, like a fine-tuned mechanical brain; The cuckoo pops out from its bird house, calling the hour in harmony with the hour striking function. Both are chiming the specific hours on the hour and a single strike on the half-hour. Because there are no great cartoons without music, the music box movement starts playing a fine tune, while a double automaton animates the figurines—playing on demand, continuously, or in perfect harmony with the clock’s hourly chime. An 8-day timekeeping movement ensures a precise display of hours and minutes with two matchstick-inspired shaped hands ready to lighten up the time and the whole firework rocket inspired cabinet.

This intricate choreography is effortlessly controlled through three signature pulleys, elegantly suspended from the clock and a lever hidden under the clock. The left pulley is for absolute silence of all sound animations. The middle pulley replays the last hour’s performance at any moment, offering a chance to relive the spectacle. The right pulley activates or deactivates a pre-set silent mode, allowing for scheduled quiet periods. Additionally, a dedicated lever beneath the clock provides independent control over the music box, letting you choose between continuous play, a short demo performance or synchronizing it with the clock’s hourly strikes.

For intense moments of concentration of peace or deep sleep, Time Tales features a do not disturb function with a fully mechanical silent mode, allowing for pre-set quiet intervals. A rotating dial, adorned with two elegant pointers, marks the start and end of each silent period, while a discreet symbol beneath the 12:00 numeral subtly signals when the mode is active.

This is how Time Tales has been mechanically computerized by our brilliant teams.

***Design and inspiration***

At first glance, Time Tales’ aluminum structure appears sleek and modern, with a black and silver polished housing. But soon, its form reveals a playful twist—evoking retro rockets and the dazzling fireworks of classic cartoons etched into our collective imagination. Think of classic cartoons where a zany character straps themselves to a rocket for a quick escape—only for chaos to ensue. The journey is never as simple as point A to point B; detours, mishaps, and spectacular blunders turn speed into slapstick. Time Tales’ rocket-shaped design playfully echoes this, serving as a reminder to pause, embrace the unexpected, and take time to slow down. And sometimes it is not necessary to rush or go too fast if one wants to succeed.

Time is displayed with two matchstick-shaped hands, a whimsical nod to the slapstick energy of animated adventures. Yet, the real magic begins when the mechanical movement is wound. As the cuckoo sings, a double automat with figurines—channeling “*Tex Avery”* slapstick brilliance, the timeless antics of “*Tom and Jerry”*, and the boundless energy of “*Looney Tunes”*—spring into motion, transporting us back to a childhood where time stood still and every moment was both fun and a new discovery.

Designed in partnership with Jason Sarkoyan and Martin Bolo, the mischievous figurines come in three unique collections—dogs, birds, and monkeys—each embodying the timeless wisdom of *See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil, and Do no evil*. This ancient proverb found in many cultures, often depicted through four wise monkeys, reminds us to be mindful of the negativity we absorb and spread.

A symbol of wisdom, the four Wise Monkeys have appeared across cultures for centuries. In Buddhism and Shinto, they represent the idea of avoiding evil and maintaining a pure mind. In India, similar teachings in Hindu and Buddhist traditions emphasize self-discipline and wisdom. In China, Confucian and Taoist philosophies encourage guarding one’s senses from negative influences.

Today, the four Wise Monkeys remain a popular motif in art and storytelling, reminding others to always stay positive no matter what. With Time Tales, L’Epée 1839 gives the animated figurines a playful role, reinforcing the clock’s lighthearted spirit and encouraging one to embrace moments of self-reflection and time for oneself.

***The embedded mechanical computer system:***

This kinetic sculpture conceals a sophisticated, in-house-developed cuckoo mechanism, integrating a music box, an hour-striking function, and the signature cuckoo call. The cuckoo call and chimes sound together, marking the full hours with a complete chime and a single strike on the half-hour. The sequence concludes as the music box springs to life, accompanied by the second automaton animating the figurines.

Time Tales’ three mechanical movements function like a mechanical computer, offering precise control over every feature. These are seamlessly guided by three elegantly polished suspended pulleys and a discreetly concealed lever beneath the clock.

Each of these sound animations can operate independently or in unison, allowing complete customization—you can trigger sounds on demand or mute the music box, cuckoo, or chimes individually to suit your preference.

For moments of complete silence, a second dial allows to set a pre-programmable silent mode. Each movement winds independently with a dedicated lever, while a finely-hand finished square key ensures effortless time-setting.

*The three pulleys and lever:*

Enhancing its versatility, the three pulleys are the commands for the mechanical computer allowing you to tailor its performance to your lifestyle and preferences. Pull the left one to deactivate the cuckoo, chimes and music box for full silence (Absolute silencer). The middle pulley replays the last hour’s spectacle whenever you wish (repeat on demand). The right one activates or deactivates the pre-set quiet time system (mechanical computer activation/reset). Additionally, a separate lever solely controls the music box—choose continuous play, repeat on demand or standard mode. Just like a computer, Time Tales offers complete control.

*Programmable silence mode:*

For peaceful moments, Time Tales offers a customizable Silent Mode. This all-mechanical system—masterfully engineered by L’Epée 1839—lets you pre-program quiet periods without electronics. Using a dial, set a silence slot with two elegant hands marking the start and end times. A discreet symbol beneath the 12:00 numeral shows when Silent Mode is on, keeping things clear and simple.

***Display options:***

Time Tales can be mounted on a wall for classic installation, with an optional display stand for versatile placement.

**Limited Edition of 99 pieces per version - available with 3 different sets of figurine options:** **Monkeys, Birds, Dogs**

***Technical Specifications***

**Technical properties**

Limited edition: 99 pieces per version: Monkeys, Birds, Dogs

Dimensions : Height: 71cm – x Ø28cm Top of the cabinet

Weight : 14 kg

**Functions**

Hour and minute display - Striking hour function and signature Cuckoo call : Counting the hours by ringing the specific hours, and a single strike on the half-hour – Music box with double automat composed of dancing figurines and a cuckoo peeking out of its bird house.

Customizable Silent Mode to pre-program quiet periods using second dial with two hands setting the start and end times.

Complete user control with the 3 pulleys

* Left pulley: Deactivates the cuckoo and chimes for full silence
* Middle pulley: Replays the last hour’s sequence on demand
* Right pulley: Activates or deactivates the pre-set quiet time mode
* Separate lever for the music box: Allows continuous play or occasional demos.

**Movement**

L’Epée 1839 1855 MHD in-house caliber

Escapement: 18,000 vib/hour

11 jewels

Power reserve: 8 days

Number of components: 1241

Materials: nickel- and palladium-plated brass, stainless steel

Incabloc protection system

**MATERIALS & FINISHING  
  
Materials**:

Aluminum cabinet, Palladium-plated brass, stainless steel

**Finishes**

Polished / Satin-finished / Sand-blasted/ lacquered

Detailed hand-lacquered of figurines

**Optional display stand:**

Weight : 24 kg.

Height : without piece : 61,7 cm - with piece : 77 cm

Base dimensions : 30 cm x 35 cm.

**About designer Jason Sarkoyan**

Jason is a self-taught industrial designer, but passionate about watches, with a fascination that began at age 8 through movies like Back to the Future and an interest in space exploration. That lead his love for time and space into a new universe of learning how to take his design ideas into reality. By 12, he was perfectly sketching designs and continuously learning engineering fundamentals from his father while drawing creative inspiration from his mother’s experiences as a designer in California.  
  
After briefly studying at UNLV and Pasadena Art Center, Jason left school to pursue hands-on experience, pitching his designs to Swiss watch brands. Breaking into the European-dominated industry as an American was challenging, but his persistence and talent helped him overcome cultural barriers. Over the last decade, Jason has collaborated with brands like Omega, Urwerk, Roger Dubuis, and Tissot, designing across various markets and price segments.  
  
Jason views watches as vessels of storytelling, blending bold narratives with innovative designs that challenge traditions. His work extends into music and pop culture, building creative connections across industries. Just shy of 30, Jason has earned a reputation as a trailblazing designer, known for edgy, modern creations. As an independent designer, he continues to push horology into bold new territory. Through his work, Jason shapes stories one timepiece at a time.

**About designer Martin Bolo**

Martin Bolo is a talented designer with a deep passion for science-fiction and mechanics. A graduate of ECAL’s Master in Luxury and Craftsmanship program, he honed his skills with some of the most prestigious names in watchmaking. The original concept for a cartoon-inspired clock was his brainchild.

Today, having traded the hustle and bustle of city life for the calm of southwestern France, Martin works as an independent artisan and creative. Alongside collaborations with renowned luxury houses, he expresses his vision through a family-run woodworking atelier—a space rooted in nature, where he thoughtfully works with a variety of wood species. His creations reflect a delicate balance between refined craftsmanship and the raw, sincere character of this renewable material.

**L’EPEE 1839  
SWITZERLAND'S LEADING CLOCK MANUFACTURE**

L’Epée 1839 has been a prominent clockmaking manufacture for 185 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 Besançon, France, the company originally focused on producing music boxes and watch components. Even at this early stage, the brand was synonymous with entirely handmade 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 1839 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 1839 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 1839 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*.

Today, L’Epée 1839 is based in the Swiss Jura Mountains (Delémont), under the direction of CEO Arnaud Nicolas. The manufacture still upholds this incredible know-how in the passionate creation of unique horological sculptures manufactured entirely in-house.

The clocks’ technical prowess, combination of form and function, long power reserves, and remarkable finishes have become signature features of the brand.

In 2023, L’Epée 1839 wins the “Mechanical clock” award at the Grand Prix de L’Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG) with Time Fast II in chrome, a creative and technical challenge.

*L’Epée 1839 collections focus on three themes:*

Creative Art: artistic pieces first and foremost, sometimes developed in partnership with external designers as joint creations. These clocks surprise, inspire, and even shock the most seasoned collectors. They are for those consciously or unconsciously looking for exceptional objects.

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, and perpetual calendars.

Carriage 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.