

# Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking

Michael Clerizo

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MASTERS OF  
CONTEMPORARY WATCHMAKING

Thames & Hudson

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#797284 in Books 2009-11-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 12.00 x 1.30 x 12.10l, 5.56 #File Name: 0500514852292 pages Just in time for the Holidays! Great gift for the watch enthusiast in your life. Beautiful Photographs | File size: 69.Mb

**Michael Clerizo : Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Almost invisible text  
By Nathaniel R. Brown  
I can only echo the praise heaped on this book by others - the photos and examples are revelatory. My three-star rating stems from an altogether different issue: much of the text is on the small side, and a great deal of it is printed on a colored background - a combination which makes the book almost wholly unreadable to my old eyes. I may struggle through the chapter on George Daniels, and I have certainly enjoyed the very fine photography - but a book I can't read? I'm very much afraid my copy goes to the second-hand bookstore up the street.  
8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. What drives the craftsmen who actually `make' a watch all by themselves  
By Fortunat Mueller-maerki  
What drives the craftsmen who actually `make' a watch all by themselves  
Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking. By Michael Clerizo. Published 2009 by Thames Hudson Inc., New York, NY. (USA). ISBN 978 0-500-51485-6. Hardcover, dustjacket, 292 pages, 30x30 cm. 672 illustrations, 493 in color. With a Glossary, Bibliography, Source List and Index. Available through www..com for \$54 plus postage (list price \$85.-) or borrow from the NAWCC library. Watchmaker and watchmaking must be two of the words in the English language that are used most frequently in a sense far removed from their original meaning. How many people who are alive today have actually ever `made a watch', all by themselves? A few such people exist; but even if we are generous and do not insist that the individual

has also made the case and the dial him- or herself there are precious few. The book under review explores the achievements of a significant sample from among the few contemporary artisans who actually make watches all by themselves - but more importantly, it tries to answer the question: What drives them in their seemingly quixotic quest? Michael Clerizo has conducted lengthy visits and interviews with 29 independent watch creators, exploring their motivations, their biographies, their work styles, the philosophies behind their products, and he describes the resulting masterpieces. 220 pages of the book are devoted to 11 chapters describing on 20 pages each the 11 craftsmen he found most fascinating, as well as their work. All these chapters are structured identically: Starting with a portrait page, then 8 pages of narrative, followed by 11 pages of large color photographs illustrating the oeuvre. The artists covered here are: George Daniels, Svend Andersen, Vincent Calabrese, Philippe Dufour, Antoine Preziuso, Franck Muller, Aniceto Jimenez Pita, Alain Silberstein, Marco Lang, Vianney Halter and Roger Smith. The final section of the book contains shorter chapters (either 2 or 4 pages each) on 18 additional craftsmen, who are introduced only through pictures of themselves and their creations, but without a text section. The list here includes Felix Baumgartner, Aaron Becsei, Nicolas Delaloye, Romain Gauthier, Paul Gerber, Greubel Forsey, Richard Habring, Beat Haldimann, J S McGonigle, Rainer Nienaber, Thomas Prescher, Daniel Roth, Stepan Sarpaneva, Peter Speake-Marin, Andreas Strehler, Christiaan van der Klaauw, Kari Voutilainen, Volker Vyskocil. The 29 creators covered in this book account only for a miniscule portion of the high-grade watches produced today in the world, but in many ways their stories condense the essence behind the resurgence of the high-grade mechanical watch. The individuals covered range from those who by choice remain single practitioners, who produce less than a handful of pieces a year, to some who have grown into small brands like Silberstein or Franck Muller. But no matter how small or relatively big their businesses are, these craftsmen are all incredibly passionate about their work and hold strong and interesting opinions about contemporary horology. Unlike other publications on extremely exclusive timepieces this book avoids the platitudes crafted by the image consultants of the brands and rehashed endlessly by their public relations advisers. It speaks in the voice of the creative geniuses behind these innovative watches, and the reader gets a good sense about the personalities involved. This reviewer found the book entertaining, inspirational and educational. It is a large and heavy book, not conducive for bedtime reading. It is also a pretty and nicely designed book, in some regards too much so: The bulk of the text is printed in 'white on gold background', admittedly elegant, but rather hard to read in less than perfect lighting conditions. The choice which individuals to cover in this kind of book is a subjective one; this reviewer would have preferred to hear more from the ones doing all the work themselves, and less from makers like Alain Silberstein and Franck Muller who really belong more to the corporate world than to the sphere of craftsmen. In spite of these shortcomings this title is probably the most engaging description published recently on the smallest, but also most interesting sector of the contemporary watchmaking industry. Fortunat Mueller-Maerki, Sussex NJ. (May 2010) 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book - A must read for watch fanatics! By Jeff ten Bosch Let me start by simply stating that I love watches. I have an obsession. It's an obsession that cannot be overcome by just buying more watches either. And, books like this do not help... This book is truly spectacular. The sheer size and weight alone is impressive enough. The images depicted are something you just can't get by looking at or in a watch. Nor can you get such great information about some of the greatest living watchmakers of our time. The author did a terrific job of capturing each of the watchmakers stories. Including very candid information from such controversial masters such as Franck Muller. A good portion of this book provides a deep look into the minds of several great watchmakers. In addition, towards the end, several other watchmakers are introduced as are their time pieces. Speaking of the time pieces, the images provide very large and high resolution views of some amazing movements. One can quickly forget how small the parts are when viewing at such a large scale. If you have a passion for watches, then you cannot go wrong by buying this book. If you have a love of anything mechanical, then you will quickly learn to appreciate the fine art of watchmaking.

Illuminates the craftsmanship and ingenuity of contemporary craft watchmaking. The advent of quartz technology had a huge effect on traditional watchmaking. In Switzerland, in the 1970s, tens of thousands lost their jobs in the watch industry, and for a time it looked as if a 500-year-long tradition of skills would be lost forever. Today, against the odds, artist craftsmen have triumphantly brought about the renaissance of the mechanical handmade watch. The aesthetic agenda is being set by a group of remarkable independents. This book tells their story, and it is beautifully illustrated with hundreds of examples of their virtuoso work. Here is George Daniels, who systematically set out to surpass the skills of the most celebrated watchmaker of all time, Abraham Louis Breguet. Daniels, the world's most renowned watchmaker, has even improved upon those eighteenth-century skills by inventing a lever escapement requiring no lubrication. Svend Andersen (Denmark), Vincent Calabrese (Italy), Alain Silberstein and Vianney Halter (France), Aniceto Jiménez Pita (Spain), Marco Lang (Germany), Philippe Dufour, Antoine Preziuso, and Franck Muller (Switzerland), and Roger Smith (England) are among the other participants. In addition to the major interviews, other craftsmen and workshops from Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, Ireland, and Hungary are introduced and illustrated. 400 color, 30 bw illustrations

“Beautifully illustrated...would raise the horological IQ of your coffee table collection more than a few points” - International Wrist Watch  
“The kind of read you don’t want to put down too often, the kind you’re tempted to sit up in bed with for a night of anecdote and insight. Brings beautifully to life the fabulous creations of watchmakers” - Qantas Magazine  
“Clerizo has an ear for the lively anecdote and colorful detail. Lavishly illustrated” - Watch Time  
“This lavishly illustrated book takes the reader beneath the exquisite faces of these handsome objects and shows the even more exquisite nests of springs, gears, flywheels and escapements that make them tick.” - Creators.com  
“Takes readers into the minds and workshops of the most celebrated modern watchmakers of our era.... Full of lush photos and watches to lust after.” - Cool Hunting Gift Guide  
About the Author  
Michael Clerizo is a contributor to The Wall Street Journal and specialist watch magazines. He is based in London.