

SOLITAIRE

THE FINE ART OF JEWELLERY

ASIA PACIFIC EDITION

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Flower Dials

*inspired
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Love
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FLOWER-INSPIRED DIALS

by Carol Lee

Christophe Claret

The first complication by Christophe Claret made specifically for women, the *Margot* blends technical mastery with heartwarming aesthetics to find out if 'he loves me, he loves not'. Thanks to an enchanting mechanism, a simple press of the pusher at 2 o'clock will cause a petal (or two) to disappear under the dial, accompanied by a crystalline chime. There are 12 white, satin-lacquered titanium petals to 'pick', before the answer is revealed at 4 o'clock — a little, a lot, passionately, madly or not at all. The flower is surrounded by a mother-of-pearl dial where a pair of gold-tipped, steel hands tell the time using an automatic-winding movement. Its feminine profile and sleek silhouette are enhanced with a curved diamond and gold case and hidden crown.



Luxure in Full Bloom

The timeless delicacy of flowers captured in graceful timepieces

Flowers not only never go out of style, but they have fired up the imagination of generations of jewellers, artists and craftsmen. Watchmakers are no exception, and have used anything from roses to camellias and daisies as inspiration for ladies' timepieces. As shown here, some have taken the literal route by featuring petals on a bezel or floral motifs on a dial through gem-setting or enamelling. Others have incorporated innovative mechanical functions to highlight the everlasting appeal of nature's treasures.

Piaget

Inspired by French Empress Joséphine de Beauharnais and her fondness for roses, Piaget has unveiled the Rose Passion collection. Among its highlights is the *Rose Passion* secret watch, one of six unique watch models that showcase Piaget's artisanal expertise. It is marked by 667 brilliant-cut diamonds in 18k white gold petals, while a 0.4ct purple sapphire nestled in the centre. The time is revealed under the petals, powered by the Piaget 56P quartz movement on a silvered dial. It comes with a white satin strap with a diamond-set clasp.



Breguet

The rose has been the muse for Breguet's La Rose de la Reine collection. Part of this collection is the *Secret de la Reine* timepiece, originally unveiled in 2013 but now updated with a luxurious white gold ribbon bracelet. The carved rose cameo, however, continues to be the heart of the timepiece. It sits in an 18k white gold case set with 432 brilliant-cut diamonds. Pressing on the cameo rose reveals the time on a silvered gold dial powered by a self-winding movement.

Vacheron Constantin

Historical English botanical illustrations take centrestage in Vacheron Constantin's *Métiers d'Art Florilège* collection. It pays tribute to Robert John Thornton's *The Temple of Flora*, published in 1799, with three distinct models combining guilloché engraving, cloisonné and Grand Feu enamels. Among them is the *Queen* watch that features the strelitzia flower from South Africa. It blooms from the dial in vivid enamel colours and different guilloché patterns, enhanced by a white gold case, diamond bezel and alligator leather strap. Each watch is limited to 20 pieces.



Some watchmakers have taken the literal route by featuring petals on a bezel



Blancpain

Blancpain celebrates the beauty and refinement of the feminine spirit with this ultra-slim model. Thin and sleek, the 3300Z-3544-55B exudes elegance with its minimalist all-white design, 34mm white gold case and bezel set with two rows of diamonds, and white alligator-leather strap. The dial blooms with a floral motif in white mother-of-pearl marquetry. The case, at only 9.5mm thin, houses a self-winding movement with 100 hours of power reserve, which can be admired through the sapphire crystal caseback.



Jaeger-LeCoultre

With over 14 carats of diamonds, the *La Montre Extraordinaire La Rose* is a stunning jewellery timepiece.

Marrying the intricacies of horological mechanics and delicate gem-setting techniques, the *La Rose* features overlapping, finely relief-worked blooms in white gold entirely covered in diamonds. These 1,420 diamonds are set using snow setting — where gems are set side by side to completely cover the metal. Meanwhile, a delicate pair of hands sweeps over the diamond dial punctuated by pink sapphires at 3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock.

Flowers have fired up the imagination of generations of jewellers, artists and craftsmen



Hermès

The unusual combination of watch-making and glass-making has resulted in the creation of the *Arceau Millefiori* timepiece, featuring a colourful bouquet of flowers and stars on the dial. Crafted by Les Cristalleries de Saint-Louis, miniature patterns are made from tiny glass and enamel canes, each measuring a few millimetres in diameter, which are then assembled vertically to form a bed of flowers. This is the first time the highly complex millefiori technique, normally used to manufacture paperweights, is used on such a small scale to fit a dial. This multi-coloured model is complemented by a white gold case, leather strap and in-house self-winding movement, which is visible through the sapphire crystal caseback. ♦