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REVOLUTION

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GODS**

Art Basel Miami

+

**TIME
COMPLICATIONS**

Ten Top Hand-Wound
Movements

**40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BVLGARI ROMA**

Celebrating Four Decades Of Italian Design With

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Christophe Claret dwells in — and some might say, rules — a world of delightful complexity. His timepieces embody the finest qualities of haute horlogerie. They are imaginative, immaculate in design and execution, and impressive in the extreme. Or, in this case, in the X-TREM. The appellation is an acronym of sorts, for “eXperimental Time Research Engineering Mechanism”. Lest you assume this moniker is mere hyperbole, consider that there is no mechanical connection between the movement and the time display. To achieve this feat, Claret discovered a way to harness a dark force that has bedeviled watchmakers for centuries.

So, how does it work? The hours and minutes are indicated by small, stainless-steel spheres isolated inside sapphire tubes on each side of the case. The balls appear to levitate inside the tubes next to bold numeric indices, which remain stationary. As the hours and minutes pass, the floating spheres move vertically inside the tubes, as if by magic. Imagine a magician levitating a beautiful assistant who is sealed inside a glass case, and then causing her to move through the air. Claret has achieved that feat, scaled down so you can wear it on your wrist.

What’s the secret? The steel spheres are hollow, so they have little

weight. The spheres are indeed floating inside the sapphire tubes, held in place by magnetic fields generated by tiny yet powerful magnets attached to loops of ultra-thin surgical thread that are powered by the movement. Claret says the magnetic fields are focused so they do not affect the caliber.

As if that’s not enough, the movement that animates the spheres incorporates a flying tourbillon that is inclined at 30°. The tourbillon is mounted on a curved titanium mainplate. Finally, the movement is equipped with retrograde mechanisms for the hours and minutes that Claret says are radically different from traditional constructions, which makes sense given that they interact with surgical thread, not metal parts. The movement consists of 419 components and it runs in 64 jewels at 3Hz or 21,600vph. Twin barrels provide a 50-hour power reserve.

The latest incarnation of this masterpiece is the X-TREM-1 Blue. It features a white-gold and Grade-5-titanium case treated with slate-blue PVD, matched with a marine-blue alligator-skin strap, making this new model as visually striking as it is technically innovative. The X-TREM-1 Blue will be produced in a limited edition of only eight pieces. For the fortunate few, this is an opportunity to own what will certainly be *the* talking piece at any event you attend. ★

Christophe Claret's X-TREM-1 Blue blends the finest in traditional watchmaking with inventive new technology to produce a timepiece that Houdini would love.

ENGINEERING MAGIC



MOVEMENT

Caliber FLY11 manual-winding movement;
magnetic hours and minutes; flying tourbillon;
50-hour power reserve

CASE

40.0mm × 56.8mm; white gold and Grade 5 titanium;
water-resistant to 30m

STRAP

Alligator leather