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This and facing pages: Christophe Claret has combined the finest horological complications in Allegro.

THE SUM OF ALL THINGS

Unorthodox watchmaking is the norm for Christophe Claret.

By KENNETH TAN



This year, Claret launched his water-resistant minute repeater Allegro by submerging it in a vase of water.

At around the age of seven, Christophe Claret disassembled an alarm clock and promptly utilised the components to build a toy. At the age of 13, the intellectually curious Claret sent a clock for repair. Fascinated by the process of clockwork, Claret began visiting the atelier regularly.

As a graduation project at his watchmaking school in Geneva, Claret produced a skeletonised quarter repeater which he sold to a collector. Claret quickly celebrated successive triumphs: producing a minute repeater – at the age of 26 – for the late Rolf Schnyder of Ulysse

Nardin, helping Roger Dubuis on his first timepiece and playing an integral part in Franck Muller's first complicated movement.

Since then, Claret has produced 67 calibres for 25 brands. "With all the know-how which I gained of mechanics, movement, dial and case construction, I felt confident I could make the right decision if I ever had to build my own watch," he says.

This became the impetus for Claret to found his eponymous timepiece brand, which has earned renown for chiming and carillon functions, as well as horological creations which integrate

poker, blackjack or baccarat in the timepiece.

This year, Claret launched his water-resistant minute repeater Allegro by submerging it in a vase of water in front of a rapt audience at Baselworld. With his earlier Aventicum piece, Claret referenced an ancient artefact – the bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius – to create a small-scale reproduction 3mm high.

A specially crafted 36-faceted mirror, or Mirascope, magnifies the miniature gold bust which is protected by a case of 5N red gold or palladium-rich white gold.

www.christopheclaret.com