

## CHRISTOPHE CLARET

by Carol Lee

## Hower Sirl

A horological masterpiece for romantics and connoisseurs



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o create ladies' timepieces, many watchmakers simply went for a size reduction of their men's models to fit the ladies' wrists. Add some gemstones and diamonds, and the off to the showroom it went — a practice dubbed as 'shrink it & pink it'. On the other end of the spectrum, though, there are watchmakers who create movements specifically for ladies, recognising a growing demand by increasingly sophisticated and well-heeled female consumers.

Christophe Claret is one of them, capturing the hearts of women with creativity, aesthetics, and mechanical virtuosity. Its highly acclaimed Margot watch line was an original playful timepiece that allowed the wearer to find out if 'he loves me, he loves not'. Now the watchmaker presents the Marguerite, adding to the complications exclusively devoted to women. The Marguerite charms not with the love-life-predicting function, but with a delightful hidden message.

In addition to the Arabic numerals at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock, the dial presents a second display, where one presses on the pusher at 2 o'clock to make the numbers disappear and to reveal the phrase "Il m'aime passionnément" (French for "He loves me passionately"). The changeover of the two dials is achieved by superimposing two disks with a matrix layer over the printed mother-of-pearl dial. In case the wearer misses the "He loves me. He loves me not" feature, she can flip the watch to the other side where the game is incorporated at its caseback. The rubies on the oscillating weight in the form of flower petals declare whether it's a "yes" or "no".

Telling the time is an equally charming affair, thanks to two butterflies filled with coloured Super-LumiNova — a darker female one on the white lacquered daisy petal displaying the hours and a lighter male one on the pistil displaying the minutes. The case is available in white or rose gold with two newly invented types of setting, the 'flake' and 'champagne', which give the diamonds the effect of sparkling bubbles. The watch is powered by a self-winding Manufacture movement whose double barrel ensures an impressive 72-hour power reserve. Each of the four versions is limited to only 30 pieces.

