

UPSIDE DOWN BY LUDOVIC BALLOUARD

讓時間反轉再反轉



Ludovic Ballouard的披肩長髮教我想起科幻片裡那些古靈精怪的科學家。來自法北布列塔尼的新晉獨立製錶匠，在未全情投入鐘錶行業前曾經做過幾年飛行儀器技術員。幸好他沒有浪費自己的一身好武藝，“浪子回頭”先在Franck Muller打了幾年工，再過檔F.P. Journe協助大師製作自鳴及打簧錶，前後歷八年。09年初他決定自立門戶，創業作就是Upside Down。表情多多的Ludovic說：構思作品時適逢金融風暴最天翻地覆的當兒，錶叫Upside Down最應景了！Upside Down是很好玩的錶，正面只見分針和小秒針，時針不見了！錶面上大部份小時的數字都呼應錶名是顛倒的，只有當時時間的數字正向，旁邊有小圓點確認。每當分針踏正12時，本來的小時便在電光火石間反轉，同時間新一個小時歸位反正。看透明錶底下的結構，你或可參透玄機。機芯邊緣上，明顯有一個平均分佈了齒突的環，由機芯的槓桿推動。外圍的十二個馬爾他十字就是小時盤的底部，大家見到的環其實只是內圈，金屬覆蓋下的外圈緊貼十字架。外圈的適當位置有連續齒突。每到60分時，槓桿推齒突內圈急速前進，同時外圈推動互靠的兩個十字架反轉，再反轉！當中的力學計算雖然複雜，但Ludovic說有了在F.P. Journe處理複雜錶的經驗，幾乎可以心算出來！（*Timothy*）

A native of Brittany, the French master Ludovic Ballouard was once an aviation instrument technician but his real call was of course, watches. His first permanent watch assignment was at Franck Muller. From 2001 to early 2009 he worked for F.P. Journe and was involved in many Journe's complications, most notably those sounding watches. While Upside Down is a vivid description of the time-telling method of the watch - whenever the minutes hand goes over 12 the last hour inverts instantly while at the same time the correct new hour turns upright with a dot appeared beside it. Ludovic got his inspiration, believe it or not, from the financial tsunami when all hell broke loose and everything went upside down. The 12 Malta crosses on the movement are the base of the 12 hour-discs. A ring with regular teeth on its inner perimeter circulates the movement. Levers of the movement fast advance it hourly. Meanwhile, the outer perimeter of the same ring, in touch with the Malta crosses and set with consecutive teeth at certain points, will force the last hour down and the new hour up simultaneously. The kinetics behind is sophisticated but Ludovic said after working at Journe he could manage the maths by heart.