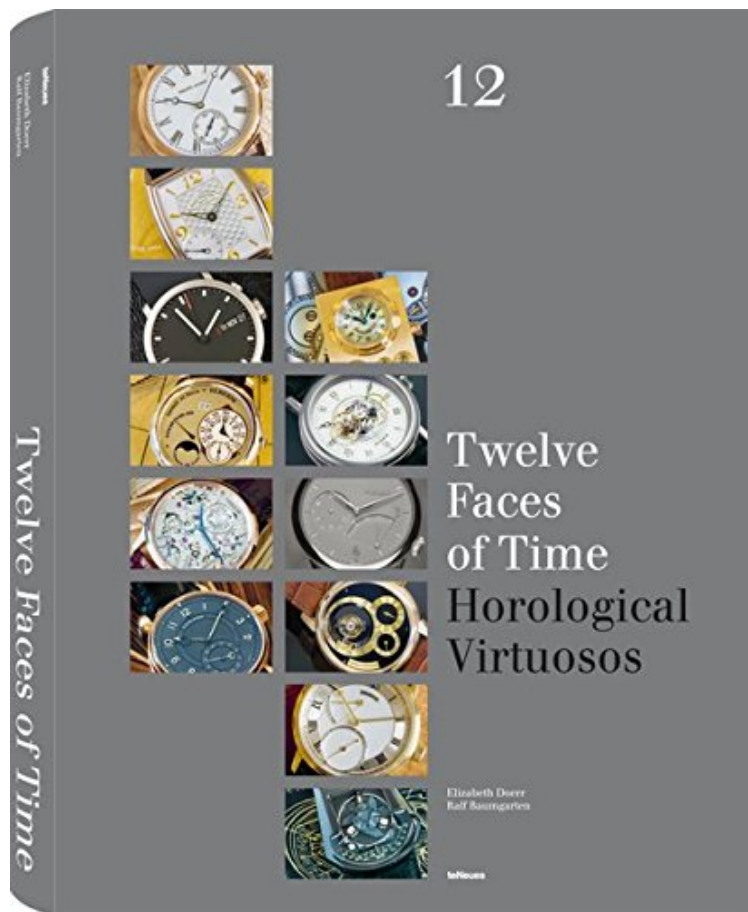


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[Library ebook] Twelve Faces of Time: Horological Virtuosos

## Twelve Faces of Time: Horological Virtuosos

**From Brand: teNeues : Twelve Faces of Time: Horological Virtuosos** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twelve Faces of Time: Horological Virtuosos:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Faces Behind some Highly Individual WatchesBy Fortunat Mueller-maerkiThe Faces Behind some Highly Individual WatchesTwelve Faces of Time - Horological Virtuosos. By Elizabeth Doerr (Text) and Ralf Baumgarten (Photography). Published 2010 by teNeues Verlag, Kempten (Germany). ISBN 978-3-8327-9373-9. Hardcover, dustjacket. 208 pages, 34 cm x 27 cm, ca. 300 black white photographs. Text in English. Available from www..com , List price \$95, available for ca. US\$65 plus postage, or borrow from the NAWCC library.The most fascinating sector of contemporary watchmaking - even if numerically insignificant - is made up of the watch brands that are purely the expression of the values, style and thoughts of an individual watchmaker. The book under review introduces us to twelve such individuals; they come from seven different nations (although nine now practice their art in Switzerland). In twelve chapters of 16 pages each we meet (in order of their age):\* Philippe Dufour (\*1948, Switzerland), the pioneer in the rebirth of the independent artisanal watchmaker,\* Paul Gerber (\*1950, Switzerland), who started adding unique complications to individualize high grade watches in the

1980s before that became fashionable,\* Ludwig Oechslin (\* 1952, Italy), the scholar who after getting degrees in archeology, classics, physics, the history of science and astronomy started an apprenticeship as a watchmaker\* Francois-Paul Journe (\*1957, France), the Geneva based fan of Antide Janvier and dual oscillator resonance timepieces,\* Kenji Shiohara (\*1958, Japan), who created a small 'haute horlogerie', individual pieces workshop, within the giant Seiko conglomerate\* Kari Voutilainen (\*1962, Finland), who started out as a teacher of watchmaking skills and found his calling in creating one-of-a-kind watches only at age 40,\* Vianney Halter (\*1963, France), considered a genius in the world of horological mechanics, who insists that he just "creates the watches that he dreams of".\* Beat Haldimann (\*1964, Switzerland), with his central axis visible tourbillion wristwatches and the flying dual balance Resonance H2,\* Volker Vyskocil (\*1964, Germany), the completely self-taught watchmaker and programming wizard who makes watches on his self-designed, self-built CNC machine,\* Thomas Prescher (\* 1966, Germany), a boyish looking former Navy Captain turned watchmaker enamored with triple axis tourbillions,\* Roger Smith (\*1970, United Kingdom), the only watchmaker having been personally trained by the great George Daniels, who goes on building masterpieces in the tradition of Breguet and Daniels.\* Felix Baumgartner (\*1975, Switzerland), the 35 year old newcomer to this select group who embodies the perfect marriage between high-tech and individualism. The chapters, both in their text and in their photographic images, don't attempt to deliver copious amounts of hard facts, but strive to create an impression about the artisan, about his style, on how he works, about what motivates and excites him. Of course there are some images of these individualistic masterpieces, but the focus is on showing these masters in their environment, as people, in the landscapes they live in, the workshops where they create. The texts are sparse; the pages have much empty space. This is not a technical book on how technological wonders are built, but a human interest story of what drives these geniuses to create and what inspires them to make unusual watches. It is a book that encourages the reader's mind to wander and to contemplate the issue of what accounts for high quality horology. This reviewer has been fortunate over the years to personally meet several of the characters described in the book and feels that the two authors - both in the text and through the images - captured the essence of what each person is about rather well. "Twelve Faces of Time" is an unusual but useful addition to a horological library if the reader has an interest in the human story behind the recent resurgence of artisanal watchmaking at the highest levels. Fortunat Mueller-Maerki, Sussex NJ 20 August 2010 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Gian Mario Alessi The amazing life of independent watchmakers. Incredible photographs. 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Not for Watch Enthusiasts By Jon WI bought this book because I saw that it had some makers who are not in Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking, which has deservedly high praise in its reviews. The 12 faces is not anywhere near this book. Instead of pictures of watches and movements of work shops, Baumgarten's photos are typically "artistic compositions" like long distance shots of a car in which the subject watchmaker may be. While it has a few macro photos they are few far between and rarely show any of the beauty of the watches its subjects make. On one section the subject states he has invented a new escapement, with no further diagrams, pictures or examples. This looks to me like a tribute to the photographer rather than the watchmakers. If you want to learn about contemporary watchmaking and watchmakers, buy Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking by Clerizo.

The passing of the hours is the one thing we all have in common. Long the subject of philosophical musings, time waits for none of us. This thought-provoking volume profiles twelve very distinct masters in the world of high-end horology. We learn of the unique process, infinite precision, and personal vision each brings to his craft. Through text and photographs we gain a heartfelt understanding of the fine detail and delicate artistry that is the hallmark of mechanical watchmaking at its highest echelons. Author Elizabeth Doerr is the senior editor of Wristwatch Annual and has written for prominent magazines worldwide. Photographer Ralf Baumgarten's varied projects include his first book on watchmaking, UhrMenschen. His works have been featured in publications and exhibitions internationally.