

DE BETHUNE

L'ART HORLOGER AU XXI^E SIÈCLE

Press Release, Baselworld



Dream Watch Meteorite

The iron meteorite that was worked to create the case of the unique Dream Watch Meteorite will remain an enigma for all time, in its origins and its composition. A work of art in the form of a watch, it is an avant-garde testimony to a place where time does not exist.

De Bethune worked on a fragment of outer space to create the Dream Watch Meteorite. Beyond classification, this timepiece reflects the philosophy developed by the brand, which is an approach involving fundamental exploration in the field of watchmaking, always seen in relation with mankind and the human universe. Among the collections, the Dream Watch brings together the most experimental creations. The Dream Watch Meteorite completes the line, with the use of a rare material that comes from the cosmos and with a purity that is impossible to reproduce. By utilising a fragment that fell more than 4,000 years ago in Campo del Cielo, Argentina, De Bethune has created a magisterial time piece that is a witness, through its origins, to the unfathomable mysteries of the universe. At once a work of art, a philosophical object and a technical challenge, the Dream Watch Meteorite is a dream that mirrors space.

Organic connections

The Dream Watch Meteorite has its origins in a chain of random, unpredictable events that began in the realm of the stars and galaxies, and ended in the manufacturing process of the case. Its creation is the result of the assiduous workmanship of watchmaking pioneers, led by David Zanetta – Curator and Co-Founder – and Denis Flageollet – Master Watchmaker and Co-Founder of De Bethune. The highly intuitive design follows the organic arching lines that are spontaneously visible in nature, for example in the shape of a leaf. The execution of the design involved a profound rethinking of conventional watch-machining techniques. Composed essentially of iron (92 %) with traces of nickel and cobalt, the hard and compact structure of the meteorite has no similarity to the usual watchmaking materials. Denis Flageollet and his team advanced step by step to come to grips with the unusual characteristics of this material. The method they adapted for working the original 3-kilo block resembled the techniques of a sculptor, with an initial examination of the raw material, to detect its irregularities and identify the best zone from which the case could be carved. Each step in the manufacturing process was transformed into an enigma that challenged their skills, knowledge and intuition. Finished by hand, the case retains its original anthracite colour that was then flame-blued by hand, according to the traditional watchmaking technique. This process brought out the profound texture of the meteorite, which is studded with streaks and flashes that ultimately compose a snapshot of the universe.

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Superlative chronometry

Although De Bethune pursues a conquest of the unknown, it remains nevertheless faithful to the essence of fine watchmaking, which is to design and produce the most precious timepieces possible. In the Dream Watch Meteorite, the manually wound mechanical movement houses a high speed tourbillon developed by De Bethune. Ultra-light, weighing 0.20 grams, beating to one-tenth of a second, it makes one revolution in 30 seconds. These three key features determine the precision of a tourbillon and De Bethune has chosen the optimal performance for each of them. The calibre incorporates a number of silicon parts, including the patented balance wheel ringed in white gold, and the escape wheel. The balance spring features the patented De Bethune flat terminal curve, developed in-house. The time is displayed digitally, through a trapezoidal sapphire aperture with a jumping-hours disc and a second dragging minute disc. In the centre, the spherical moon-phase, also a patented complication, turns regularly with such precision that it only needs to be adjusted by one lunar day every 1,112 years. Winding and setting the time is done by means of a meteorite crown – the same material as the ardillon buckle – decorated with a large natural ruby cabochon protecting a diamond in its inner core.

Shaped like a rocket to travel through time, the Dream Watch Meteorite carries within it the history of an odyssey.



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De Bethune explores the future of fine watchmaking. An independent brand founded in 2002 by Curator David Zanetta and Expert Master Watchmaker Denis Flageollet, it designs and manufactures all of its timepieces in house. Thanks to a limited production volume, De Bethune enjoys an unmatched capacity for innovation. With more than 10 patents for fundamental inventions and some twenty world firsts presented since the brand's founding, De Bethune also possesses a catalogue of 25 exclusive calibres that have been tested for regular usage.

Through its creations, De Bethune follows in the line of its forerunners, the great watchmakers, in their quest for a perfect measurement of time which is aligned with a sense of absolute beauty. Using the most up-to-date scientific discoveries, their efforts converge in the invention of unique new high-performance solutions.

The "De Bethune" style flows from its philosophy. It has one goal: to use contemporary or even futuristic style to recreate the aesthetic intensity and emotional vibration elicited by the most exceptional creations from previous centuries, or even millennia. Here, history exists only as a rallying call to achieve the levels of excellence of the past, and push ever further.

De Bethune's unique essence relies on an intense and constant dialogue between the past, present and future. Beyond timepieces, De Bethune's creations raise questions as much as they intrigue, bearing witness to a constant redefinition of the watchmaker's art.



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Dream Watch Meteorite

Technical specifications



Dream Watch Meteorite

Technical specifications

Name:	DW5 Meteorite
Reference:	DW5T
Limitation:	Unique timepiece
Functions:	Hours, Minutes, Spherical moon-phase indication at the center, 30'' indicator via the ultra-light De Bethune tourbillon cage on the back
Movement:	DB2149
Type:	Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment:	Winding, Spherical moon-phase adjustment and setting the time by means of the crown (3 positions)

Technical features of calibre DB2149

Number of parts:	356
Jewelling:	35 jewels
Diameter:	30 mm
Power reserve:	4 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel <i>De Bethune Innovation (2004)</i>
Specificities:	Silicon annular balance encircled by a white gold ring <i>De Bethune Patent (2010)</i> "De Bethune" balance-spring with flat terminal curve <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i> Silicon escape wheel Spherical moon-phase indication with an accuracy of one lunar day every 1112 years – <i>De Bethune Patent (2004)</i> <i>Ultra-light De Bethune 30'' tourbillon in silicon and titanium</i> <i>De Bethune Innovation (2008)</i>
Frequency:	36,000 vibrations per hour
Adornment:	Hand-crafted finishing and decoration

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Display

Display: Jumping-hour aperture at 3 o'clock
Analogue minutes indicator on a dragging rotating disc
Spherical moon-phase indication in palladium and flamed-blued steel with an accuracy of one lunar day every 1112 years at 6 o'clock – De Bethune Patent (2004)

Dial : Frame of the jumping-hour aperture in blued grade 5 titanium

Case and strap

Case material: Delta shaped case in solid hand polished and blued iron meteorite

Case diameter: length 58 mm – width 47 mm

Case thickness: 16 mm

Crystal: curved Hard-mineral crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating

Case back: Closed and screwed down case back in solid hand polished and blued iron meteorite with aperture on the 30'' indicator via the ultra-light De Bethune tourbillon cage

Hard-mineral crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating

Water resistance: 3 ATM

Strap: Extra-supple alligator leather, alligator lining

Buckle: Pin buckle in *solid hand* polished and blued iron meteorite and blued titanium