

# Christian Klings

As a young child growing up in Dresden, in what was then East Germany, Christian Klings developed a precocious interest in discovering how mechanical objects worked and, at 10 years old, was already known as the neighbourhood's master go-cart builder. Klings' father bought him a watchmaker's lathe when he was 11 and he knew that he had found his calling when, he had fabricated a complete mainspring barrel. So it was no surprise when, at 16, Klings began an apprenticeship with a Glasshütte watchmaker.

A couple of years after completing this Klings moved to West Germany (agitating for human rights in East Germany had the desired effect, i.e. expulsion) where he worked for a time as a motorcycle mechanic before finding work as a watchmaker specializing in antique clock and watch restoration.

Freedom to travel opened up new horizons for Klings and in 1986 he emigrated to California where he opened his own atelier specializing in clock and watch restoration.

By 1996 he was developing his first watch, a Tourbillon with passing Strike. Also an ultra-thin moonphase was built in a Audemars Piguet movement added only 0,3mm of height. After 14 years in California, in 2000 Klings moved back to Germany, initially developing new ways to build his own watches with traditional watchmaking tools. The workmanship mostly depends on the touch of his hands. In his career of watchmaking not more than 20 individual timepieces have been created.

In 2003, he began crafting watches for collectors with unique escapements and tourbillon mechanism. "Escapements, and the power transmissions to the escapement, have always interested me because it is the heart of the watch". Klings is a craftsman in the traditional sense: components including cases, dials, hands, bridges, wheels and crowns are designed and made by hand using old-fashioned watchmaking tools. Fine hand-finishing, guilloché dials, Geneva stripes and other unique decorations provide Klings' timepieces with their own distinctive individual character.

But for his sublime tourbillons that Klings is perhaps best known. These include Tourbillon No.7, a unique piece like the majority of his creations, features a flying tourbillon with Swiss lever escapement, flying third wheel, mounted in ceramic ball bearings + moonphase and power reserve.

Since 2017 Klings is creating more simple (basic) watches in a classic style concentrating in aesthetics like little details of finishes, various anglage, engraving, color, etc. For example: The Geneva stripes have a very fine grain texture. Some of the plates, bridges are rhodium plated, or, upon request, made out of massive precious metals, like gold, or a certain composition of newsilver, to prevent tarnishing. Beside the Guilloché of the Dial also Klings developed a method to use silk with a fine texture to cover the background of the dial. It permits to use a multiple selection of colors.

The size of the watch varies between 34 to 42mm. Upon request the size of the wrist can be taken in order to have a close fit.

Klings admires the beauty, the craftsmanship and the inventive spirit of the 17th and 18th centuries and devotes much time to fundamental research and experimentation as a basis for the new horological constructions.

"I am looking forward to give and transform skills to the art of watchmaking. Art speaks for itself."