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PPS 1609/06/2013 (028550) MCI (P) 163/12/2013

ALL THAT GLITTERS AT BASELWORLD

by **éleonor picciotto**



Note from the Editor: Eléonor has been a friend of REV★LUTION for a long time and honed her jewelry and watchmaking chops at Harry Winston and MB&F. She combines her knowledge of haute joaillerie and horology to bring us her top picks from the gem-studded side of Baselworld 2015, leading in with a rare insider's view of the world's biggest watch fair. For more of Eléonor's insights and discoveries, visit her website [The Eye of Jewelry \(www.theeyeofjewelry.com\)](http://www.theeyeofjewelry.com) and and follow her on Instagram (@theioff).

On the whole, at Baselworld this year, brands better understood our needs as journalists — they gave us fewer pens, more scented candles and most brands stuck with USB press kits for convenience and portability. Of course, we still got chocolate — not least because it is, after all, a Swiss fair, and also we need to keep up with the calorie replenishment to make sure we don't pass out while running between the exhibition halls! Rolex, Corum and Fabergé gave out delicate, warm and soft scarves, a practical and fashionable way to protect our sensitive throats from the air-conditioning — not to mention the ease of catching a cold while running around in a state of food and sleep deprivation (and during the occasional morning walk of shame). Living off brand gift packs becomes a highly coveted survival skill, but here are some tips from someone who's lived to tell the tale... Assuming you've already visited Chanel, Hublot and Perrelet, you'll easily make it through the day without stopping by your Basel accommodations. Classics are classics for a reason — a spritz of Coco Chanel will help you stay poised. The Perrelet co-branded power bank will stop your smartphone from revealing the fact that you spent the night without access to your charger. However, you might want to go easy on the leather case of Fresh! bodycare products that came with the Big Bang 10th Anniversary press release. Too much can be just as much of a giveaway as too little. After all, what happens in Basel stays in Basel... with the exception of these fabulous pieces we discovered in the following pages, of course!

B W 2 A O 0 S R 1 E L 5 L D

CHANEL ETERNALLY COCO

A 41.52-carat diamond cuff that gives you the time. Soft edges surrounding an octagonal shape, subtly reminding you of the octagonal Premiere watch. The irregularities of the diamond snow-setting, occasionally combined with blue sapphires, creates the effect of a star-filled sky. On top of this, a swiveling comet reveals or covers the secret dial, fully paved with baguette-cut blue sapphires. So Coco, so Chanel. ★



JACOB & CO WRAPPED IN MYSTERY

The Brilliant Mystery Baguette is transparent and devoid of angles, set with diamonds on the case (19.25 carats) and with rubies or diamonds at its heart (2.45 carats), giving you the paradoxical impression of wearing a discreet, light and floating watch, despite the weight on your wrist. Set by a corrector, two tiny arrows etched on turning sapphire-crystal discs indicate the time. ★



BULGARI SERPENTINE SPLENDOR

The new Serpenti watch embodies the facet of Bulgari's identity that speaks to purity. Refined and delicate, the head-over-tail design is a simpler take on its multi-coil predecessor. The feel of the links draping around the wrist has been improved with a new technique and the bracelet is now secured with a double pressure button. For an everyday look with a hint of serpentine seduction. ★



PASQUALE BRUNI FLORAL ECHOES

Replace your white cotton Peter Pan collar with one of diamond lace. The necklace, shaped like a halo of petals, can be worn two ways and is made of tiny gold flowers set with 3,421 diamonds, 258 pink sapphires and linked with delicate gold wires. The central piece holding the teardrop-shaped morganite is a repeated motif of Pasquale Bruni's emblematic flower. ★



FABERGÉ
EVERYONE'S A FAN

An idea combining the genius of a watchmaking legend and the historical savoir-faire of a jewelry house led to the Lady Compliquée. A timepiece made exclusively for women, with a dial paved with vivid colored precious stones, a system of retrograde minutes indicated by the tail feathers of the hand-carved peacock and a rotating mother-of-pearl disc displaying hours. Feminine and simple, which some might say is an oxymoron, but Fabergé makes it a reality. ★



SHAMBALLA
PUT IT ON AND DON'T TAKE IT OFF

Two enlightened beings with one state of mind. Twenty years ago, the Kornerup brothers created Shamballa, the first high-end jewelry brand exclusively for men. The worldwide success of the paved-bead bracelet somehow eclipsed the core collection of the Danish brand, but there is more to Shamballa than you might think. For everyone and in an everyday style, the brushed gold SOS Alliance bangle clicks onto your wrist in two seconds and can stay with you all year long. ★



AS29 BY AUDREY SAVRANSKY
JEWELRY WITH BACKBONE

The Hong Kong-based Belgian designer Audrey Savransky succeeded in recreating the sinuous movement of a reptilian vertebra. At first sight, the 15 carats of deep-blue sapphires set on a thick structure of an open necklace placed around your neck can be slightly disturbing, but soon you won't want to take it off. Bravo, Audrey, for creating a statement piece so light, chic and comfortable that you can style it simply with a pair of jeans and a white blouse! ★



GARRARD
AVANT-GARDE ICON

The oldest jewelry house in the world brings us an avant-garde redesign of their iconic angel wing. Keeping the white gold and diamonds of the original piece, Garrard used black enamel with shades of gray to achieve a feathered texture. Attached to black spinels beads, what could pass for a rosary is nothing less than a stylish necklace or even a bracelet. ★



VAN DER BAUWEDE
DIAMONDS IN TWILIGHT

A jewelry pendant made of bats set with black and white diamonds, attached to a blood-red heart-shaped rubellite as its central stone — it's one hell of a rock jewel. A statement piece for which Maxence Van Der Bauwede took inspiration from his daughter's incessant chatter about the *Twilight* series of books. ★



CHRISTINA DEBS
CANDY IN BEIRUT

Big stones to us are like candy to a child: you want but cannot have them, and then want them even more. Lebanese designer Christina Debs took this idea and ran with it, choosing super-colorful, large and uneven semi-precious and fine stones for her collection. You can even customize your ring by engraving the stone. A delicious concept indeed! ★



ROLAND ITEN
THE ULTIMATE ACCESSORY

Claude Sfeir is known for his sharp eye for watches and gems. Roland Iten is famous for making extraordinarily complicated yet easy-to-wear mechanical belt buckles. The collaboration between the two resulted in a 60.66-carat cognac diamond set within Iten's buckle system. Officially unveiled by Christie's in May, a portion of the sale of the unique Diablo R60 will be donated to a charity supporting product-design education. ★



GRAFF
MY TREASURE OF THE FAIR

Dear Basel-Santa, if ever you want to get me something, the Graff Secret Halo Watch is the perfect jewel-watch. What appears as a simple domed ring, set with a central stone and fully paved with diamonds and emeralds, is a secret timepiece with a tiny quartz movement. Additionally, it's so light that it stays perfectly poised on your finger without turning under its own weight. Brilliant! ★

