

MEN *United*

Pairing TWO of the most prominent names in the *INDIE* watch scene proves a master stroke.

Artist (or artiste) collaboration was already a common practice since the early 20th century. Cubism, the *avant-garde* art movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, is a stellar example. Two heads *do* think better than one.

Now, independent watchmakers Alain Silberstein and Maximilian Büsser have also jumped onto the collaboration bandwagon.



Büsser, chief executive officer of MB&F, proposed to Silberstein the idea of working together in 2008. His brief to Silberstein was to do what he deemed fit.

And the Frenchman weaved his *sui generis* brand of magic into the Horological Machine (HM) No. 2, resulting in the HM2.2. Minimalist, sleek and shaped like a black box, the watch is devoid of sci-fi elements that usually accompany MB&F's pieces and the signature bright colours of Silberstein. "I was puzzled and expected something colourful," Büsser admitted. "Slowly, I started liking it more. Just like music that you're initially unsure of. But after a while, you



fall in love with it."

Using the steel substructure of the HM2, the titanium case is treated with a PVD coating with silicium, that gives an intense black matte top layer. The right-hand dial shows the jumping hours framed by concentric retrograde minutes in an aperture, while the left presents the retrograde date and the moonphase. Silberstein exclaims: "It's like Pandora's box!" Simply magical. ■

Clockwise from top: The movement of the HM2.2 comes with a blue 22K gold version of the signature battle ax rotor; The collaborative effort in its full glory; The men behind the ingenious timepiece — Maximilian Büsser (left) and Alain Silberstein.

