

HERMÈS - L'heure de la Lune

Travelling in another dimension

An offbeat expression of a classic horological complication, the Arceau L'heure de la lune watch offers an original interpretation of Hermès watchmaking expertise. Framed by a white gold case, the mechanics adopt a light, barely-there role. Meteorite or aventurine inlaid with mother-of-pearl form a cosmos in which satellite dials float above hemispherical moons. These mischievous displays have swapped cardinal points, with the south above and the north below. A topsy-turvy direction inviting observers to lose their bearings, with their head in the stars...

The horse, representing the origins of Hermès, gallops elegantly into the world of dreams. At 12 o'clock, the moon is adorned by a Pegasus created by the "dreamer-designer" Dimitri Raltchev. Entitled Pleine Lune (Full Moon), this portrayal of the winged horse hints at a passage between two worlds, where magic and reality merge. On the other side, at 6 o'clock, the view of the moon from the northern hemisphere provides a realistic depiction of its surface.

The mobile counters displaying the time and date turn weightlessly to reveal the moon discs, while maintaining their horizontal orientation. This contemporary dance is choreographed by a module exclusively developed for Hermès and for which a patent has been filed. With a total thickness of just 4.2mm, its 117 polished and bead-blasted components are incorporated within the Manufacture Hermès H1837 movement: a technical challenge designed to preserve the slenderness of the overall mobile chassis, which sweeps around the dial in 59 days. The mother-of-pearl moons set into the stone display the lunar cycles in the northern and southern hemispheres. This mysterious game of hide-and-seek reveals nothing of its technical complexity, so as to give pride of place to dreams.

Within this space-time, metal, stars and rock seamlessly merge the watch exterior with the movement to form an unprecedented technical and aesthetic display of simple and graphic readability. The double moon here eclipses a traditional aperture-type display, instead covering the entire surface of the dial. The result is a free-spirited and impertinent vision of mechanical watchmaking according to Hermès. The Arceau case with its asymmetrical lugs, designed by Henri d'Origny in 1978, becomes a lunar crater made of meteorite stone or aventurine, while the lacquered dials, gravitating like satellites, display Arabic numerals with a distinctive sloping font. This Haute Horlogerie timepiece is issued in two 100-piece limited editions, and fitted with a matt alligator strap in graphite grey or abyss blue.

Informations techniques

FUNCTIONS

Hours, minutes, date, double moon phase (display of moon phases seen from the northern and southern hemispheres)

CASE

Designed by Henri d'Origny in 1978

White gold case ($\approx 68.2\text{g}$)

43mm in diameter, 22mm interhorn width

Antiglare sapphire crystal and case-back

Water-resistant to 3 bar

DIAL

AVENTURINE DIAL

White-lacquered mobile counters, black transfers

METEORITE DIAL

Gradated grey-lacquered mobile counters, white transfers

Moons in white natural mother-of-pearl

Southern moon: Pegasus transfer inspired by the Pleine Lune motif designed by Dimitri Rybaltchenko

Northern moon: lunar surface transfer

Blued hands

STRAP

AVENTURINE DIAL

Matt abyss blue alligator

METEORITE DIAL

Matt graphite grey alligator

17mm white gold folding clasp ($\approx 26.39\text{g}$)

MOVEMENT

Hermès Manufacture H1837 movement

Mechanical self-winding, Swiss made

Diameter: 26mm ($1\frac{1}{2}''$)

Thickness: 3.7mm

193 components, 28 jewels

Frequency: 28,800 vph (4Hz)

Circular-grained and snailed baseplate, satin-brushed bridges and oscillating weight, signature "H" pattern

MODULE

Exclusive "L'heure de la lune" module

Diameter: 38mm ($1\frac{3}{4}''$)

Thickness: 4.2mm

117 components, 14 jewels

Polished and bead-blasted bridges