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Algorithme du Temps presents Rêveries des Secondes

A centre seconds hand that slows, stops, runs backwards and races, and crosses twelve exactly at every minute.

Algorithme du Temps presents Rêveries des Secondes, Étude Nº1, a mechanical watch designed by its founder, Nadim Elgarhy. Its centre seconds hand never runs evenly. It slows, stops for an instant, runs backwards at the pace of an ordinary seconds hand, then races forward at up to three times its normal speed. At every full minute it crosses twelve exactly on time.

The watch starts from the way we live time. Research on time perception shows that time flies when we are absorbed, drags while we wait and stretches in memory. A glance at a clock can even make its seconds hand seem to stop, an illusion known as chronostasis. Every watch we wear marks each second the same. Rêveries des Secondes gives the seconds the shape of felt time and keeps the minute measured.

The hand's speed changes continuously between −1× and +3×. It runs backwards 19% of the time and changes direction 46 times in five minutes. Nothing about it is random. The display is entirely mechanical and its pattern returns only every five minutes, longer than anyone watches a seconds hand. Each piece receives its own pattern, so no two hands wander the same way.

The hours and minutes sit on two recessed sub-dials, at 10:30 and 1:30, and the centre is left to the seconds. A round window at six o'clock shows the hand's rhythm being made. The case is 904L steel, 38.0 × 42.1 mm and 10.53 mm thick, under a domed sapphire crystal, with a closed, mirror-polished back acid-etched with the name, the reference and the number of the piece. Inside is an automatic Sellita SW200-1. The design is patent pending.

"I realised that watches could measure time, but never explain it," says Nadim Elgarhy. "Why should a watch only show the time we measure, and never the time we live? Such a design would remind wearers of the elasticity of their own temporal experience."

Rêveries des Secondes is a limited, numbered series of 40 pieces. Collectors, journalists and members of the watch industry can register their interest at www.algorithmedutemps.com. To arrange a private viewing of the prototype when it is ready, write to press@algorithmedutemps.com.

Algorithme du Temps was founded by Nadim Elgarhy, who holds a degree in computer engineering and algorithms and researches time perception. He is the author of two papers, The Future of Time: Psychological, Perceptual, and Philosophical Dimensions and Their Potential Applications in Advanced Horology and Consciousness as a Fundamental Dimension: A Modern Theoretical Framework. The name of the brand sets the algorithm, definite and logical, against time, which we try to control and cannot.

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