



Signs of Viking Past

GoS Watches - Press Release - Artisans

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Contact: Patrik Sjögren and Johan Gustafsson

Email info@goswatches.com

<http://www.goswatches.com>

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GoS Norrsken – Artisans contributing to the new GoS watch

GoS Watches

In 2008, GoS Watches unveiled its first collection of timepieces. The company brought together the talents of master bladesmith, Johan Gustafsson and master watchmaker, Patrik Sjögren. Both men, proud of their Swedish nationality, wanted to create fine timepieces inspired by Scandinavian history and nature and imbued with a high quotient of hand craftsmanship.

Johan deftly works Swedish tool steels, famed for their superior qualities, creating an array of watch components in Damascus steel, including bridges, cases and dials. Damascus steel finished in GoS techniques is not susceptible to corrosion and its surface is suffused with flowing patterns. Each piece of this steel is unique and enriched with its own distinctive markings.

Patrik Sjögren has extensive experience working 'at the bench', making a myriad of parts by hand, including crowns, dials, dial components, the brand's distinctive hands, as well as a variety of movement parts. The Swedish watchmaker painstakingly finishes movement parts to a blemish-free, refined conclusion. In 2019, Sjögren gave masterclasses during Dubai Watch Week and, most recently, he was invited to become a member of the GPHG Academy.

Over the years, GoS Watches has created a number of differently-styled, Scandinavian themed watches but all of them share one thing in common, they are the result of two Swedish artisans working in harmony.

James Thompson - Black Badger

The Swedish firm, Black Badger, was established by the Canadian designer, James Thompson. He studied for a master's degree in industrial design in Sweden and has considered the Scandinavian nation as 'home' ever since. Today, Thompson flits between his given name and his soubriquet, 'Black Badger'.

While few creative souls wish to be pigeonholed, Thompson has gained a reputation for making jewellery from an array of materials, including ceramics, carbon fibre and titanium. However, most notably, Thompson enjoys creating objects which emit an extraordinary degree of nocturnal brightness. He works in close collaboration with the Swiss firm, RC Tritec, the makers of Super-LumiNova.

Since establishing his company, Black Badger has collaborated with an array of different watch companies, including the high-end independent brand, MB&F. For this project, Thompson has worked with GoS Watches, creating an index ring which emits a distinctive luminescent glow from both the inside of the case and underneath the index ring.

Mikael Kenlind

Born in 1984, Mikael Kenlind is comparatively young master craftsman, however, creating glass art is part of his DNA. Indeed, Kenlind is the fifth generation of glass craftsmen in his family. In the formative years of his career, Kenlind spent time in Italy and trained under the Venetian master, Benito Marcolin, who broadened the young Swede's knowledge.

This highly-skilled Swedish artisan has employed his talents to make a plethora of different objects. These have encompassed classic Venetian filigree as well as bewitching glass fruit, pairing multihued and colourless tones.

For this project, Kenlind has developed a process to create a chamfered index ring from a tube of hand blown Swedish crystal. This necessitates shaping the glass by hand and polishing it in order to maximise its lustre and transparency. Crystal has a higher index of refraction compared to mineral glass or sapphire, which results in the lustrous mirror effects as seen in crystal chandeliers. The transparency also gives a view of the dial finishing below the ring and lets the luminescent glow pass through onto the dial and other details.

Jochen Benzinger

Jochen Benzinger is renowned for his mastery of the rose engine lathe. These machines are no longer made and most examples in use are often in excess of 100 years old. While the words, 'engine', 'lathe' and 'machine' may suggest some form of automation, this is not the case. Indeed, this technique, sometimes termed 'guilloché' is performed using the deft use of hand.

The dial is mounted vertically within a rotating head and secured in place. Benzinger presses a cutter against the dial surface, applying a consistent pressure while at the same time turning the rotating head with the same handle.

Different 'roses' create different patterns on the dial surface. Sometimes several patterns will be imparted to one dial, however, they must remain discrete. It is the uniform application of pressure and speed which determines the quality of the resultant dial decoration. Hand guilloché is the preserve of the finest jewellery and watches.