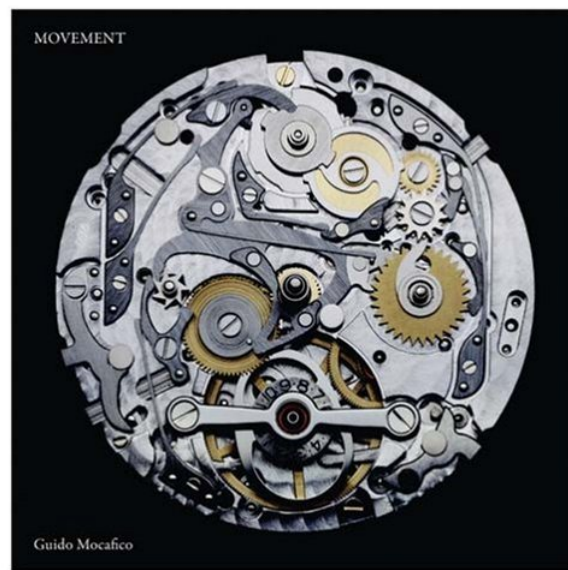


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Time is naturally marked by repeating astronomical phenomena, by the daily cycle and the seasons, as nights and months come and go. To slice it into finer fractions, our forbears invented sundials, which track the movement of the shadows projected by the sun, or clepsydra, hourglass-like devices that count time based on a consistent rate of water flow. But ever since 1657, when the first watch was created, we have used the oscillatory movements of a mechanical system to do that job. The photographer Guido Mocafico, whose previous books include *Venenum*, *Medusa* and *Serpens*, sets out in this new project, *Movement*, to observe these systems. He chose complex and rare mechanisms--physically mechanical rather than electronic--which led him into a world of traditional knowledge controlled by master watchmakers. To remove the back from one of their tiny creations is to plunge into an unknown world: these images of the tiny springs, levers, screws and gears that drive the hands of time forward, etched with the slightest texture possible and engraved in the smallest type possible, present an abiding mystery of the everyday, representative of all of the technologies we have come to take for granted. Mocafico was born in Switzerland in 1962. A specialist in still life, he works for international magazines such as *Vogue*, *French Vogue*, *The Face* and *Wallpaper*. Based in Paris, he has also undertaken numerous advertising campaigns for Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Clinique, Shiseido and Hermès.

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A watch type's opinion

By JonW

I collect old watches so this book has a special interest to me.

It bought on recommendation of the book guy in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) and the book exceeded expectations.

The photography and subject matter are top grade.

As the author states its picture book. Its not so much a watch book as a tour of the current state of the current and ongoing reawakening of "boutique" watch making. The mechanical machinery of a watch is called its "movement" and that is what this book shows.

The movements are partially dismantled to show their workings to maximum advantage and highlight the design and workmanship. The pictures are large and very well done.

This is a coffee table book to be picked up and enjoyed from time to time over the long term.

It is a lot of book for the money.

As a collector I wish this team would take on American watch movements. For a long time American watch buyers bought movements and had them cased when they bought them. This led to a lot of eye candy which would make a great book.

By contrast these movements overwhelm with complexity of the moving parts although there are some deceptively simple movements. They are deceptive in that some of the simple movements required manufacturing techniques hard to imagine.

The book is a great gift for any watch person you know, including yourself.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

The Aesthetics of High-grade Pocket Watch Movements

By Fortunat Mueller-maerki

BOOKREVIEW

The Aesthetics of High-grade Pocket Watch Movements

Movement, by Guido Mocafo (Photography), with horological advice by Antoine Simonin. Published November 2008 by Steidl, Göttingen, Germany [...]hardback, dustjacket, 80 pages, 35x35 cm (14"x14"); ISBN 978-3-86521-545-1, illustrated in color. Text in French (but virtually no text). Available at www.amazon.com for \$52 or borrow from the Library & Research Center at the National Watch & Clock Museum.

The first paragraph in this book reads: "This is a book of photographs. The photographs in this book all show watch movements, but it is not a book about watches."

That is undoubtedly true. This is not a book about watches, it is a book solely about the beauty of high grade, contemporary wristwatch movements. The Italian photographer Guido Mocafo, together with the German design team of Steidl Publishers, and with the technical advice of Swiss watchmaker Antoine Simonin, has created one of the most extraordinary 'watch books' I have ever seen.

The team selected 37 contemporary wristwatch movements, and took amazing, full movement photographs of them (sometimes the under dial view, sometimes the back of the movement). The core of the book consists of these 37 very large, incredibly detailed pictures. They are each reproduced on a double page, in 12 inch diameter vivid color images of stunning clarity and depth of focus, without any text on the pages to diminish their visceral impact.

The creator is the first to admit that he neither understands -nor cares about- how watch movements work, and that he made the book not for horologists but primarily for people who care about beautiful shapes. But that uncompromising bias favoring 'beauty' over horology - in the opinion of this reviewer - has resulted in a book that is nevertheless likely to become a 'must-have' book for technically savvy enthusiasts of complicated watches. The watches selected are mostly Swiss (the exceptions are three watches by A. Lange

& Söhne, and one by Glashütte Original), covering the large well known upscale brands such as Patek, IWC, Audemars, Vacheron, Chopard, Blancpain, Hublot; as well as smaller brands including Jaquet Droz, DeWitt, Harry Winston, Journe, Greubel-Forsey, Genta, Lacroix, Dubuis, and individuals such as Voutilainien, Gauthier, and Roth.

Every conceivable complication is represented, including many tourbillions, minute repeaters, chronographs, perpetual calendars, double escapements (resonance), etc, and most decorative techniques are illustrated (including perlage, Geneva stripes, skeletonizing, engraving, black polishing etc.).

A technical appendix (six movements per page), identifies and describes each movement shown, listing the brand, year made, model, caliber, dimension, jewellery, complications, escapement type, running time, number of components and decorative technologies used. While that text is in French, any watch enthusiast can decipher that information, even if he/she does not read French. A one page horological glossary in French concludes the book.

This book was made to be 'eye candy', a coffee table book appealing to a broad non-horological readership. But I predict it will also become the one book many watch collectors will want to have at hand not only to enjoy it themselves, but to show to their non-horologist friends, because this beautiful volume is ideal for demonstrating to those not so afflicted, how it is possible to fall in love - and become obsessed - with marvels of micro-mechanics. Mocafo's 'Mouvement' is a strong reminder to all passionate horologists that our obsession is not only about mechanical function but also about beauty.

Fortunat Mueller-Maerki. Sussex NJ November 30, 2008

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By SLM

Excellent photos.

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