

POME



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Love Romance



*There was a time when
Paris had to be left behind...*

In the midst of war, under the weight of occupation and fear, when the world seemed to be unraveling thread by thread, the head of one of the great Couture houses of the era made a singular request: to be brought a fabric rose. Not jewels. Not silks. Just a rose, made of cloth. A fabric rose during the Second World War — when concentration camps spread across Europe, when Parisians themselves were forced to flee their city. It sounds almost naïve, even absurd. And yet, it was anything but. It was a quiet insistence on beauty.

A delicate act of resistance. A reminder that hope, romance, and tenderness do not disappear in times of darkness — they adapt, they endure, they find new forms. This issue is an invitation to rediscover that kind of romance. Through fashion's evolving color palettes and reimagined surface structures, through designs that speak softly but carry meaning, we

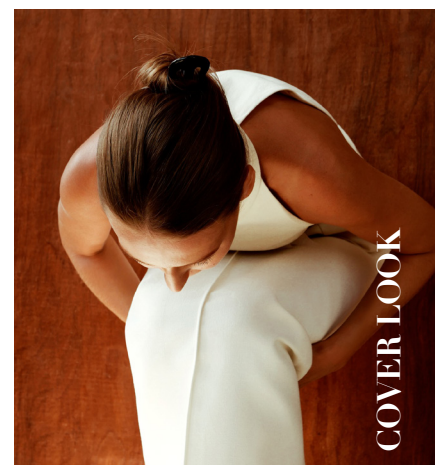
explore how modern creativity continues to echo that enduring belief in beauty. These pages are shaped by love stories — not only between people, but between designers and their craft, between cities and their histories. We travel, too, to places that remain suspended in time destinations woven into the collective memory of humanity. Somewhere between past and present, one can still hear the immortal lines whispered into the night: “Oh, a kiss is still a kiss in Casablanca. But a kiss is not a kiss without your sigh.”

And, as always, romance finds its most opulent expressions in luxury. From timeless symbols of love and fortune, to zodiac timepieces inspired by the Year of the Horse in Asia, to the legendary red of rubies stones whose fire has long defined the language of desire and power. This issue celebrates beauty in its most enduring forms.

Perhaps, in every era of uncertainty, what we are truly searching for is our own fabric rose. A symbol that reminds us that elegance, imagination, and hope never surrender — they simply wait to bloom again.

Ethan Carter

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



COVER LOOK

For this cover, we stripped everything back. Clean white against warm wood, natural skin, and a gaze that holds the story.



Time, Tradition, and the Horse:
LUNAR NEW YEAR
WATCHES

In the Year of the Fire Horse, luxury watchmakers revisit the Chinese zodiac through craftsmanship, cultural intelligence and mechanical intent—tracing how Lunar New Year Watches have evolved from experiment to institution.



For much of the Swiss watch industry's history, cultural symbolism was treated cautiously. Motifs rooted outside Europe, particularly those tied to astrology or folklore, were often regarded as decorative rather than substantive. That attitude shifted in the early 2010s, when a small number of maisons approached the Chinese calendar not as ornament, but as structure. Blancpain's introduction of the Traditional Chinese Calendar in 2012 marked a turning point.

A year later, De Bethune presented a twelve-piece zodiac cycle inspired by the water clock of Beijing's Old Summer Palace. These projects reframed the zodiac as a legitimate field of horological enquiry: mechanical, artistic, historical. More than a decade, Lunar New Year watches have become a recurring fixture of the high-end calendar. Some function as seasonal gestures. Others reveal deeper thinking about timekeeping systems, cultural translation, and narrative in contemporary luxury. In 2026, the Year of the Fire Horse offers a clear snapshot of where this category stands.

Horse as Symbol

Within Chinese cosmology, the Horse represents movement, stamina, autonomy, and outward-facing energy. In Fire years, these traits sharpen, linked to charisma and transformation.

For watchmakers, the symbolism is not merely decorative. The Horse aligns naturally with mechanical metaphor: oscillation, torque, stored energy, release. When handled with restraint, it aligns cultural meaning with horological logic. The most compelling pieces avoid reducing the animal to pictorial cliché.

Experiment to Institution

When Blancpain unveiled the Villeret Traditional Chinese Calendar in 2012, it translated the lunisolar system zodiac animals, heavenly stems, earthly branches, leap months into a mechanical wristwatch. The result established credibility. De Bethune's zodiac project in 2013 took a different route. Inspired by the bronze animal heads created for the Qing court, the DB25 series treated the zodiac as a closed artistic cycle rather than an annual exercise. Each piece stood alone yet belonged to a coherent whole. These early efforts set a benchmark. Against them, today's Lunar New Year watches are easier to read in ambition and intent.



Year of the Horse 2026

TAG Heuer: Contemporary Accent

TAG Heuer's Carrera Chronograph Year of the Fire Horse adopts a restrained approach. The 39mm Glassbox case and in-house automatic chronograph movement anchor it within the Carrera lineage. Cultural reference remains subtle: a deep red dial, gold accents, and the Chinese character for Horse at nine o'clock. The Fire Horse engraving on the caseback is visible only to the wearer, reinforcing that this is contextual rather than theatrical. Limited to 250 pieces, it reflects a strategy that is global and culturally aware without overstatement.

Hermès: Animation as Craft

Hermès approaches the Horse from a position of fluency rather than homage. The Arceau Rocabar de Rire is neither traditional nor reverential. Instead, it uses humour as a technical and artistic device. At the press of a pusher, the engraved horse animates, extending its tongue in a moment of unexpected levity. The dial combines engraving, miniature painting, and horsehair marquetry each stripe composed strand by strand.

Beneath the playfulness lies disciplined execution, powered by Hermès' in-house H1837 calibre.

Produced in a series of twelve, the watch reflects Hermès' broader philosophy: craftsmanship first, symbolism second, interpretation always personal.



Vacheron Constantin:

The Continuity of Métiers d'Art

Vacheron Constantin's Métiers d'Art Legend of the Chinese Zodiac series has, over the years, become one of the most consistent expressions of zodiac watchmaking. The Year of the Horse edition follows the established format: a sculptural gold animal, hand-engraved and enamelled, set against a richly textured dial.

Time is indicated via four peripheral apertures, preserving the visual integrity of the artwork. Inside, the self-winding calibre 2460 G4 operates unobtrusively. Available in pink gold or platinum, each version is limited to 25 pieces. What distinguishes this series is not novelty, but continuity a quality often undervalued in seasonal editions.

