Volume 20, Nº 6

All That's Good in Time

Holiday

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Watch Journal

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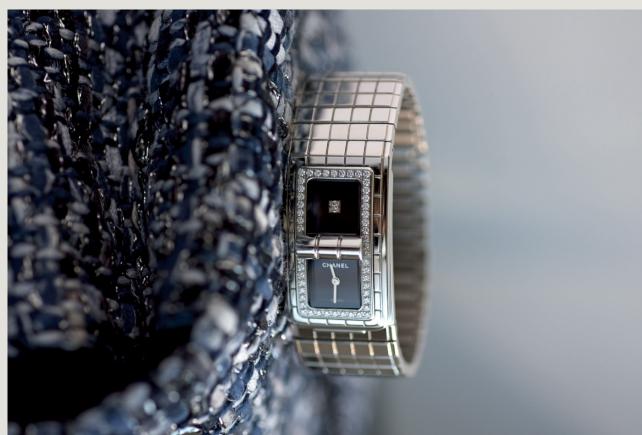
With runway references and an emphasis on crafting in-house movements, Chanel fuses high fashion and watchmaking artistry.

By Tanya Dukes Photos by Doug Young

There's no arguing that Chanel is a newcomer to the haute horlogerie block. In an industry that measures legacies in centuries, Chanellaunched its first watch a mere 30 years ago. But the commitment to the category—bolstered by collaborations with independent watchmaker Romain Gauthier and ownership of watch assembly company Châtelain—has helped it quickly gain on the old guard. Chanel's mix of technical expertise and its seemingly endless archive crammed

a formidable combination. The jewelry watch Code Coco is a case in point. It borrows design elements from one of Chanel's iconic handbags, the 2.55, and features crisp, sophisticated engineering. Since debuting in February of 1957, the 2.57 has had a bar-shaped closure called the Mademoiselle Lock, a moniker that—according to lore—referred to Coco Chanel's perennially unmarried status (or perhaps her alleged habit of

secreting love notes in her handbag). The same lock serves as a closure for the quartz-powered Code Coco. It clicks into two positions: When horizontal, the black lacquered dial, which measures 38.1 by 21.5 mm, is fully visible. When the lock swivels into a vertical orientation, it conceals the watch's hands, obscuring the passage of time. It's a fitting gesture from a brand whose founder declared, "I don't know how to be anywhere but in the present."





number and the numeral associated limited edition of five, Chanel's lucky in white gold, completely covered in with or without diamonds. A version diamond on their dials and bezels Stainless-steel models include a single glitz comes from diamond accents. with a certain famous perfume. diamonds, is available too-but in a textured surface. Another degree of

OPELVING : The Chanel Code watch and the bag that in-spired it. FROW TOP: Chanel essentials. Coco Chanel in 1937. OP-POSITE: Michael Kanners Red Wine Dress Set and Rough Diamond cuff links.



PHOTO: (BOTTOM) LIPNITZKI, COURTESY OF CHANEL

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LINKED IN

links from Michael Kanners. discerning wrists wear cuff Why the world's most

keep your sleeves together, consider consult your phone. If you need to a watch. If you need the time, you can need for cuff links as he does for, well, the button. And yet... The modern man has about as much

steel bracelet unfurls from a bangle

movement scatters light across its the polished metal-even the faintest grid pattern that evokes the quilted

leather exterior of the 2.55 decorates to a flat position once opened. A The Code Coco's flexible stainless

your past and your future. both, is to connect yourself to both to generation. To wear either, or even that get passed down from generation like watches, are the kinds of things looking kind of aspiration: Cuff links, convenient isn't always what's right. isn't always what's stylish, and what's eternal notion that what's practical craftsmanship, for taste, and for the wearer, but also an appreciation for standing of history on behalf of the watch, signifies not just a rich under-It also demonstrates a more forward-Wearing cuff links, like wearing a

designed ones on the market. intricately crafted and exquisitely went on to create some of the most (a simple gold pair he still owns), and pair of cuff links from his grandfather eration jeweler, he received his first than Michael Kanners. A third-gen-Few men understand this better He Some are inspired by vintage links. are commissioned by his customers.

everybody happy were looking for vintage cuff links, sion born of necessity. "Customers vintage links, before he began making learned his art collecting and selling there aren't enough around to keep says. "I had to make them because but I could never find enough," he his own, 10 years ago. It was a deci-The telltale sign of a Michael

diamond crown atop a coral frog. with a paw backing. An incredibly whimsy. Take his first pair: theatrical of first-rate materials with first-class standards of quality. and certainly not to such exacting any—and certainly not those at the Suffice it to say, few designers, if detailed dog—wearing a fedora. A are his later designs: A polar bear intends to keep them.) Then there has them and, we regret to inform, masks made from fine coral. (He still Kanners cuff link is a unique marriage painstaking and original designs today, big-brand jewelers—are making such Where does he get his ideas? Some

> of the combinations of stones, where that I think are just fantastic, because where there's a lot of variety," he terent stone." every detail is represented by a difsays. "There are some cars I've done vintage cars, boats, dogs—things appeal to the collector's mentality: "There are certain obvious ones that And then some just come to him.

to his own very precise measurespot" between too big and too small.) will like-what he calls "the sweet ments. (His experience has given him and cost involved, and then cut them onto the stones, estimate the time ety. He'll sketch his designs directly eye for ones with a strong color varistones are available, with a particular run—in Italy or Germany and does worked with for his entire 10-year a stone cutter—some of whom he's alike. — Paul L. Underwood two sets of cuff links are ever exactly Because each pair is handcrafted, no a strong sense of what his customers some sketching. They'll see what Once he has an idea, he sits with

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