

R ROGER W. SMITH

Cutting Teeth

Impossibly young, yet steeped in old English watchmaking roots, 32-year-old Roger Smith is carrying the torch set ablaze by past English masters such as Thomas Tompion, George Graham, and more recently, John Hardwood and Dr George Daniels. In fact, it was Daniels who kick-started the Bolton native's obsession for turning independent when he brandished his self-made pocket watch at a horology college in Manchester, where the young Roger was a 16-year-old student.

A bright talent who made two tourbillon pocket watches before turning 22, Roger serviced watches for the likes of Tag Heuer and Maurice Lacroix before winning over George Daniels with his second self-made pocket watch which landed him a place at the master's workshop. Under the Daniels-London name, he crafted tourbillon wristwatches, as well as 50 pieces of the highly lauded Millennium wristwatch with date indicator. Independent since 2002 and working from the Isle of Man, Roger is now a candidate member of the AHCI (Academie Horlogerie Des Createurs Independants), a prestigious collective of independent watchmakers.

Roger
W.
Smith
Series 1



No Illusions Series 1

The first of Roger W. Smith's serially produced wristwatches, the Series 1 features a rectangular movement (rare by today's standards) in a 28mm by 36mm by 10mm case. Limited to 12 pieces, the watches' 'Englishness' are evident in their raised barrel bridges, and nickel plates which are all gilded and frosted. The gold scallop-tip on the hour and minute hands is his signature, while the engine-turned and hand engraved dial, seconds on the sub-dial and retrograde date counter are testaments to Roger's flawless execution and technical mastery. Available mostly in 18K yellow gold, there are also three unique pieces produced in 18K yellow, white and rose gold co-bearing the name of Theo Fenell, a leading English jewellery designer, who collaborated on this project.

Series 2

Due late 2005, the Series 2 shares the same qualities of handmade excellence as the Series 1, with additional tweaks to its shape and escapement. Like before, the watches feature gold screwed-in chatons, engine turned and hand engraved dials, and scallop-tip hands. The key differences lie in its shape (round, 37.6mm), the implementation of George Daniels' co-axial escapement (now also found in Omega watches), and a power reserve indicator replacing the retrograde calendar. Clad in 18K gold, clients will get to specify their preferred dial, hand and case combinations. Roger plans to add annual perpetual calendar movements and further complications for the Series 2 while implementing the co-axial escapement in the next generation of the Series 1. »»»

Roger W. Smith
Series 2



"Things change with mass production, but I think it's a good time to start reflecting and bring true handmade qualities back into the market."