

HOROLOGICAL ACADEMY OF INDEPENDENT CREATORS

30 ANNIVERSARY OF THE AHCI AT BASELWORLD

„At the AHCI you can touch the watchmaker who makes your watch.“ – Svend Andersen

This year AHCI celebrates the 30 anniversary of the AHCI at Baselworld and we are pleased to announce that 9 of our exceptional watch and clockmakers will be exhibiting their creations on the AHCI booth (Hall 2.0 C15) along with 3 candidates and 5 new applicants for candidacy.

When founding the AHCI in 1984, the foundation members, Svend Andersen and Vincent Calabrese wanted to prove that beside industrial watch and clock manufacturing, there was also a need for manual and artistic watchmaking and that craftsmanship could still occupy an important place.

“After the advent of the quartz watches and the crisis of the 70’s we were convinced that there was a growing interest for mechanical watches.” the two founders state.

In 1985 the first exhibition took place at the watch museum in Le Locle, starting with 6 members presenting their unique creations. Today the AHCI includes more than 30 idealists from all over the world.

Their existence is based on a solid know-how of classical watchmaking. They promote exceptional horological innovations as well as special technical and artistic executions which actively contributes to the conservation and continued existence of the horological heritage.

Some of the very unusual and exceptional models of many famous watch brands and clock manufacturers are creations of our horological academicians.

Since 1987 the AHCI has participated at “Baselworld” and many other watch fairs around the globe. This allows collectors and connoisseurs of authentic horology, as well as the international press, the opportunity to get in contact with the true horologists who personally present their innovations and high grade master pieces.

„The AHCI is instrumental in helping new generation of independent watchmakers to develop their own brands.“ – Vincent Calabrese

Our mission is not only to preserve and maintain the horological heritage but also to promote this exceptional profession by offering talented young watchmakers the opportunity to realise and share their creations by exhibiting at the watch fairs together with the members of the AHCI.

With the sponsoring of F.P. Journe, the AHCI were able to organise the **Young Talent**

Competition in 2016. This contest was a great success and we would like to say thank you to Francois Paul for his support and efforts to help us in this and congratulate the winners Anton Sukhanov, Anna-Rose Kirk, Tristan Ledard.

Last year the AHCI exhibited at several exhibitions around the globe. These included **MünichTime** in October 2016, the **Shenzen Watch and Clock Fair** where nine members and candidates had the opportunity to travel and exhibit in a 225 SqM stand and also attend several private events, courtesy of the Shenzen Watch and Clock Federation.

In November, seven members participated at **Salon QP** in London under the AHCI banner. Also in November Vianney Halter, Antoine Preziuso and Andreas Strehler gave a series of master-classes at the **Dubai Watch Week**.

AHCI is very proud that the Jury for the **Gaïa Prize 2016** awarded **Vianney Halter** a laureate in the category Craftsmanship-Creation for his contribution to the renewal of aesthetic and technical codes in contemporary watchmaking.

Aniceto Pita owner of Pita Barcelona, was also honored by receiving an award for his contribution to artisan watchmaking from the President of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó.

In January 2017, two members of the AHCI were awarded the international prize at SIWP Awards 2016, Vianney Halter and Konstantin Chaykin.

AHCI has now 34 active members, 5 candidates and 8 honorary members from 14 different countries.

For more information please visit our webpage: www.ahci.ch

To download our media kit: www.media.ahci.ch

Or contact: committee@ahci.ch