



MEDUSA

A TRANSFIXING EXPRESSION OF TIME

Let's plunge into warm ocean waters where the beautiful and ancient jellyfish proliferate. Medusa is a dual-configuration clock, housed in hand-blown Murano glass, that can be ceiling mounted or stood upon a desk. In the form of one of the most compelling yet mysterious creatures of the sea, Medusa blends exceptional artisanal skill with Swiss horological precision, and introduces new frontiers in both.

The central mass of Medusa is formed by a large transparent dome of hand-blown Murano glass that evokes the bell-shaped body of a mature jellyfish. Two rotating rings, one displaying the hours and the other displaying the minutes, are visible through the dome, and the time is read off a single fixed indicator that extends over the rings. Like a jellyfish glowing in the abyss, Medusa glows in the dark thanks to Super-LumiNova. A 2.5Hz (18,000vph) movement beats underneath the time indication, forming the pulsating

heart of this mechanical creature. The movement of Medusa is entirely new and required over two years of development by L'Épée 1839. Whereas the other co-creations had separate points of winding and setting, Medusa required a combined system for winding and setting, since the surrounding glass dome limits access to the movement. Furthermore, in order to maximise the visual impact of the clock and reinforce the source of its design inspiration, the movement was engineered around a central axis, mimicking the radial symmetry of a jellyfish's neural column.

Perfecting the glass exterior of Medusa – available in blue, green or pink – was as challenging as any aspect of its movement creation. The pink edition, in particular, required multiple stages of layering red and clear glasses to achieve exactly the right shade desired.

MEDUSA COMES IN THREE LIMITED EDITIONS OF 50 PIECES, EACH IN A DIFFERENT COLOUR – BLUE, GREEN AND PINK – CHOSEN TO REFLECT THE NATURAL HUES OF A JELLYFISH.



L'ÉPÉE 1839
X
MB&F
LABORATORY

THE DESIGNER

FABRICE GONET

**INDEPENDENT DESIGNER FABRICE GONET
FIRST PROPOSED MEDUSA IN 2016 TO MB&F
FOUNDER MAXIMILIAN BÜSSER. THE VISION
WAS SO CLEAR THAT, IN THE END, THE FINAL
CLOCK TURNED OUT TO BE VERY CLOSE
TO THE INITIAL SKETCH!**

REFERENCES

73.6000/134

Green

73.6000/144

Blue

73.6000/164

Pink



MEDUSA  IN DETAILS

A NEW MOVEMENT

L'Épée went back to the drawing board for Medusa, designing the movement entirely from scratch. Due to the weight of the outer glass shell and its vulnerability to shock damage, it was necessary to build a movement that could be wound one-handed, with the other hand available to stabilise the clock. Additionally, with most of the movement surrounded by glass, access to any winding or setting mechanisms would be limited. In a departure from their previous clock movements, L'Épée 1839 combined the winding and setting systems in the Medusa movement. A single propeller element, which projects from the bottom of the movement for easy access, is rotated anticlockwise to wind the movement and clockwise to set the time. Whether in its ceiling-mounted or stand-mounted configuration, Medusa is easily and intuitively wound and set.

With no reinforcing outer support structures, the movement of Medusa has been deliberately built to resemble the internal neural network of a jellyfish, with a central column and radial elements. This feature is not simply aesthetic; in terms of engineering it helps to preserve the integrity of the clock as it is suspended from the ceiling.

DUAL CONFIGURATION

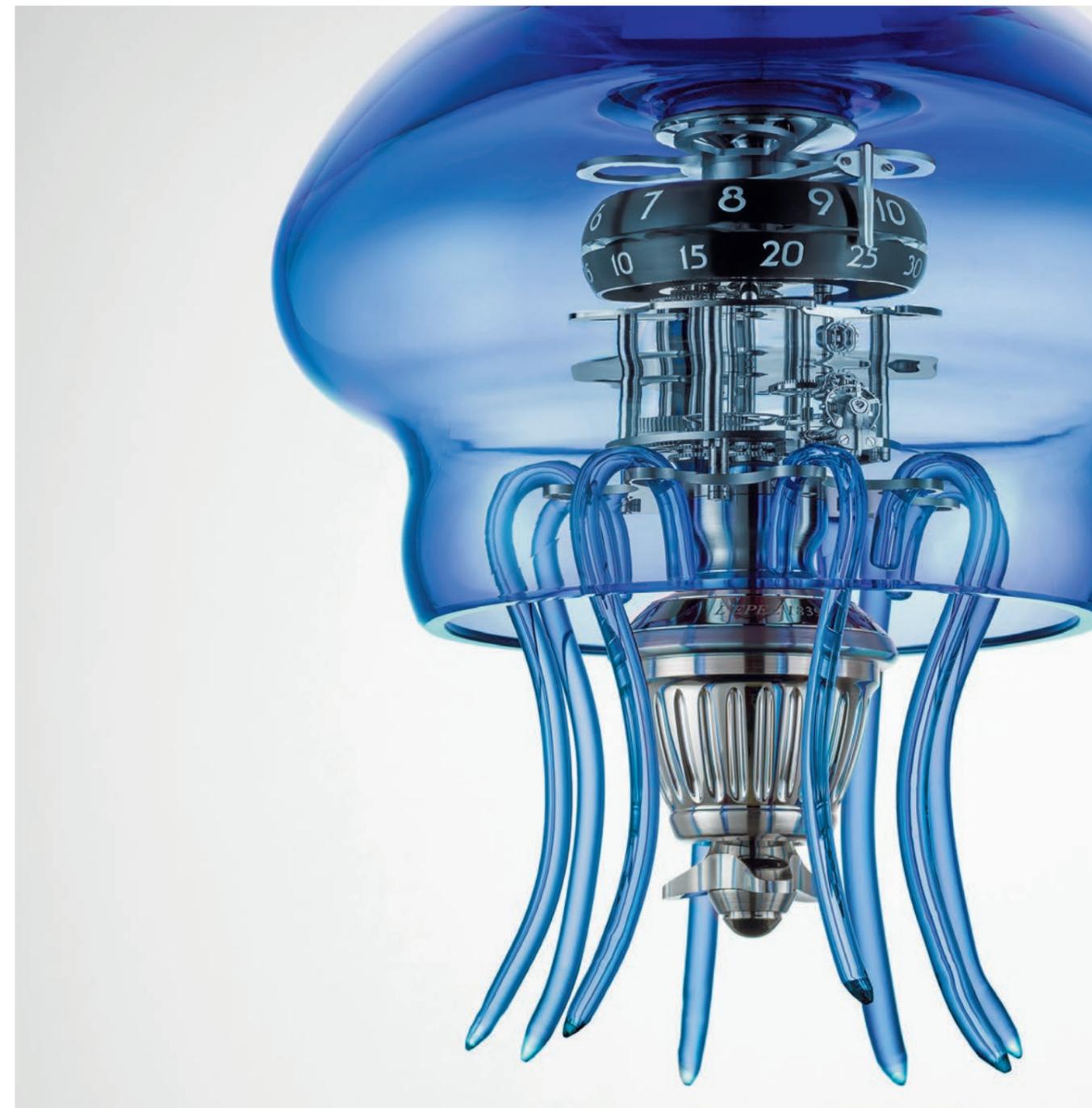
Medusa can be set on a desk or any flat surface thanks to a special steel frame with curved legs, designed to receive the base of the movement whilst allowing for easy access to the winding and setting mechanism. When hung from the ceiling, Medusa can be further decorated with its hand-blown Murano glass tentacles, which hook onto the movement and sway gently with the slightest motion of the clock – recalling a free-floating jellyfish carried along by the current.

A BODY OF GLASS

One of the greatest challenges in bringing Medusa to life was finding a glassblower that could fully realise the design. Like most MB&F + L'Épée creations, Medusa was not designed with the current limits of technique in mind. Instead, technique was developed to accommodate its design. The ethereally light, undulating form of a jellyfish had to be captured in a billowing glass dome that could withstand the entire weight of the 2.34 kg clock.

Maintaining optical consistency between the glass dome and tentacles was essential, so the conventional solution of drawing the tentacles out from pre-formed glass rods was not possible. Instead, the tentacles were produced from the same glass bulk as the dome and individually hand drawn to identical shapes and widths, which requires considerable experience and skill.

Getting the right shade for the pink edition of Medusa proved problematic as well, since the same technique applied for the blue and green editions did not work in this case. Much like vitreous enamel, hand-blown glass is coloured by metal oxides, and the palette is limited by known formulas that have been handed down over centuries of glassworking expertise. The pink glass was therefore achieved by first layering red molten glass over a clear core and then subsequently blowing and drawing the glass out.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

LIMITED EDITION

50 pieces per color

FUNCTIONS

Hours and minutes
Dual configuration: Ceiling-mounted or Standing

POWER RESERVE

7 days

ENGINE

L'Épée suspended movement,
designed and manufactured in-house
Balance frequency: 2.5 Hz / 18,000 bph
23 Jewels
Incabloc shock protection system

WINDING & TIME SETTING

Integrated winding key: unique propeller
at the bottom of the movement

DIMENSIONS

231 components

Hanging position: 286 mm tall x 250 mm diameter
Standing position: 323 mm tall x 250 mm diameter
Weight: approximately 6 kg

MATERIALS

Dome/tentacles: Murano hand-blown glass
Movement and standing base: stainless steel and brass
Indexes and top plate with Super-LumiNova

FINISHINGS

Geneva waves, anglage, polishing, sandblasting,
circular and vertical graining, satin finishing.