

Object of Desire

Stone-cold classic

Inspired by jellyfish, and named for Ancient Greece's most-famous Gorgon, MB&F's latest clock is guaranteed to hold your gaze

To see a jellyfish in its natural habit is to watch a play between the delicate and the powerful; its tentacles a dangerous reminder that some species can kill. MB&F's new Medusa clock, created in collaboration with L'Épée 1839, can't do anything fatal but its construction had to be handled with care. First, for the hand-blown Murano glass dome, 40 companies were approached: one accepted. Then there's the movement itself: because of the vulnerability of the outer glass shell, it was necessary to build a mechanism that could be wound one-handed, so the other could steady it. It also needed to be able to set the same way.

It took L'Épée two years to perfect a single propeller element that is rotated clockwise to set the time and anti-clockwise to wind the movement. And it's all been constructed vertically to mimic the jellyfish's neural column. Further

inspired by this cnidarian, the clock's time indicators and globular shape above them are luminescent, and as well as metal legs it also comes with Murano glass tentacles for its ceiling-hanging form.

The design was first suggested to Max Büsser in 2016 by Fabrice Gonet. "I've known Fabrice for some years, but we never had the chance to work together," says Büsser. "When he wanted to show me one of his designs, I accepted, even though I don't normally say yes to this kind of thing. I saw that his design was of a clock and not a watch: the vision was so clear that, in the end, the final clock turned out to be very close to the initial sketch!"

The Medusa, costing approximately £19,650, is available in green, blue (right) and pink and limited to 50 pieces in each. So, make sure to land one, before they float off.

