

Telegraph Time

Horology / Tracey Llewellyn / Hot right now



ROCK CANDY

Once seen as a quick way to feminise a watch originally designed with men in mind, pink dials were actively avoided by most horologically minded women. Recent years, however, have seen the colour reimagined, with different shades, textures and finishes giving a new lease of life to every hue, from blush and rose through to bubblegum and magenta.

Arguably, the timepiece that spearheaded the call for colour, was the 2020 Rolex Oyster Perpetual that, on its launch, caused a buying frenzy for this previously easily obtainable, entry-level model. Among the brighter yellow, coral and turquoise dials was a gorgeous 36mm 'Candy Pink' lacquered version that quickly appeared on both male and female wrists.

Now a signature design for Tiffany & Co, the Atlas collection - named for the Titan bearer of the celestial sphere, who holds a clock above the brand's 5th Avenue store in New York - began in 1983. Instantly recognisable thanks to its distinctive Roman numerals, one of the prettiest modern incarnations is the 24mm stainless-steel version with iridescent pink mother-of-pearl dial and diamond-set bezel and numerals.

Always a style leader, Omega has a range of men's and women's Seamaster Aqua Terra models featuring dials inspired by the colours of land and sea. In the smaller, 34mm size, there are five shades of sun-brushed dial with Shell Pink set to become a perennial favourite. Within the case is a self-winding Co-Axial movement certified as a Master Chronometer by Metas.

One of the most inventive brands in women's watch-making, Dior brings something fresh to the table with the Gem Dior, while nodding to the experimental designs of the 1970s. Focusing on precious metals and gems mixed with ornamental stones, the latest 27mm, pink aragonite-dialled model looks equally good worn on its asymmetric bracelet or black leather open cuff.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Atlas 24mm, £5,325, Tiffany & Co (tiffany.com). Gem Dior, price on request, Dior (dior.com). Oyster Perpetual 36, £4,560, Rolex (rolex.com). Seamaster Aqua Terra 150M, £5,420, Omega (omegawatches.com)

BURNING BRIGHT

Since Piaget, along with a handful of its contemporaries, first started experimenting with ornamental stone in the 1960s, there has been an explosion of colour and texture on dials, with wafer-thin slices of unusual minerals on the faces of wristwatches. Turquoise, onyx, malachite and lapis lazuli, are all firm favourites among the few brands that have mastered the art of working

with ornamental stones, and increasingly rarer varieties are appearing.

A prize choice for both men's and women's watches is tiger's eye, a type of quartz with a glassy lustre made up of layers of warm gold, orange and brown. Used in recent years in small, exclusive runs by brands including Rolex, Moser & Cie, Dior and Gucci, this summer, M&SF joined



the stone age. The latest incarnation of the women's Legacy Machine FlyingT features a 38.5mm diamond-set yellow-gold case with dial plate and sub-dial in tiger's eye. Demanding a movement to match its external beauty, the new LM FlyingT is powered by an automatic 60-second tourbillon movement with 100 hours of power reserve. LM FlyingT Tiger Eye, £120,000, mbandf.com

