



KAURI Model 01

By Sharmila Bertin

“Touch wood” for luck and protect yourself from harm has become a popular reflex nowadays.

Yet, caressing this noble material, feeling it alive under the flesh of your fingers, is also a comforting gesture which connects us with nature. Wood is warm, intense, and transmits its strength and its history. And, it’s probably this emotion which urged Samuel Gillioz, a young designer-creator who has trained at the Ecole d’Horlogerie de Genève, to create his own watch brand two years ago now. His firm, going under the name of Kauri, a Maori name taken from the name of a very old species of New Zealand conifers, embodies the fusion between the craft of cabinetmaking and that of watchmaking focusing on a first collection limited to just 50 pieces. Model 01 comprises a fine octagonal case measuring 41 x 43.80 mm, imagined in steel and wood to be selected amongst five species whose stains, veins and grains are all different (briar burl wood, Macassar ebony, kingwood, Swiss ebony and, of course, Kauri wood).

At the heart of this exceptional work of art, a metal capsule protecting the totally-openworked automatic movement produced by Soprod (boasting a power reserve of 42 hours), ensures waterproofness to depths of 30 m and supports the wood to prevent any risk of cracking. The wood is sculpted by hand, guided by machines, some of which date back to 1949. The metal elements – bezel, lugs, decorated workings and mirror flange – attract light to better direct it to the wood, this precious talisman. Captivated as we are by this scenery, we almost forget the essential time data displayed by dauphine-type hands and a blued steel direct-drive.

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