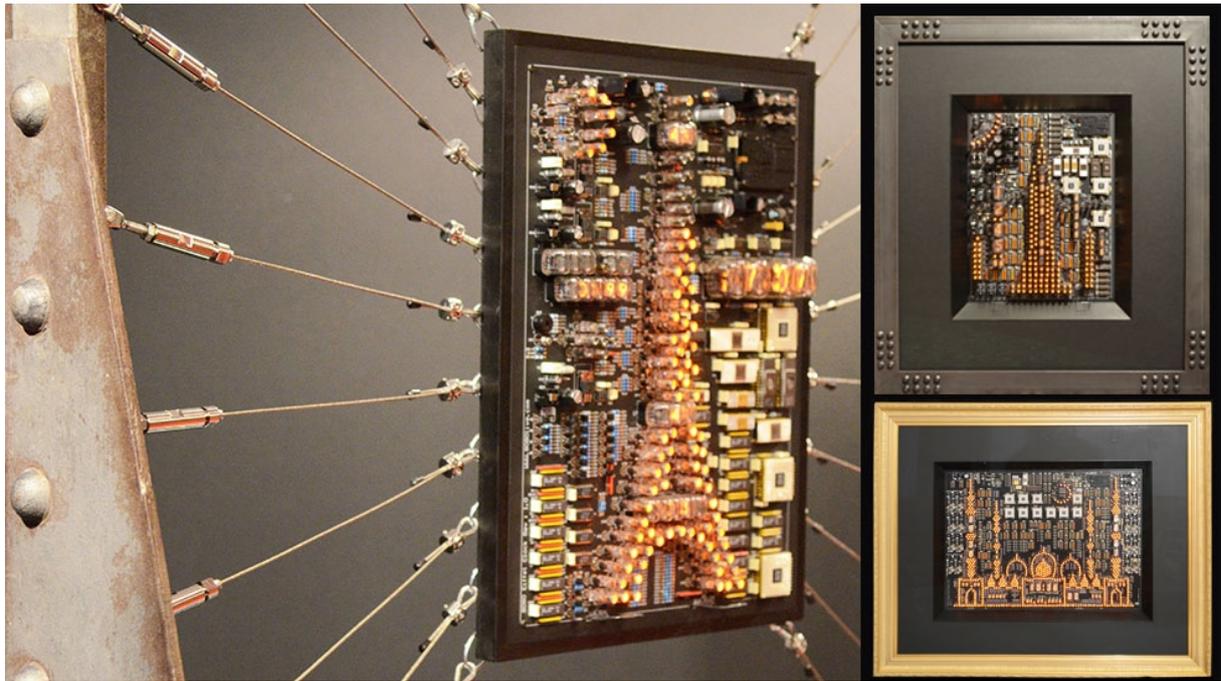


Frédéric Imbert lights up the timepieces of the world's cities



Frédéric Imbert is passionate about electronics and clockmaking and his megacity-themed objets d'art made from vintage components provide a mesmerising new take on measuring time. Decorators and event organisers are crazy about them!

Frédéric Imbert likes to mess around with clock mechanisms, but he's deadly serious when it comes to electronic components. "When most people see these components, they see them for exactly what they are: products used in industry. I imagine the things they could become." Ever since he was a teenager this engineer has been collecting motherboards, chips and other weird and wonderful pieces that he finds so fascinating. "I spent a long time trying to imagine how I could combine my two passions to create works of art."

In 1995, he started a company that developed circuit boards – what else? – and test systems for the automobile industry, however he never gave up on his passion and continued tracking down vintage electronics in collector's forums and museums etc. During the first 15 years of his professional life he bought tons of components, all of which had a story to tell. Amongst his purchases were "the very first components of their kind."

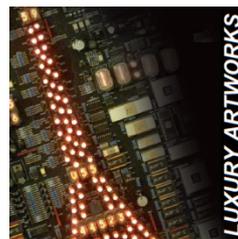
Mad about clockmaking, he decided to transform his collection of strange and iconic objects into highly desirable timepieces, "objets d'art that evoke the passing of time, but also actually work." The unique or limited series clocks are born in the secret haven of his artist's studio, a series of rare and surprising objects inspired by the world's largest cities. As each second ticks by, Frédéric's clocks display their progressive and random, orange-lit illuminations, twinkling animated numbers and rhythmic flashes.

In 2009 – as ready as he'd ever be – Frédéric Imbert launched this second activity. The man with two trades presented his creations, at the crossroads of science and contemporary art, at several professional shows. Two pieces of choice were spot on: Sputnik, which integrated the very first neon display designed at the same time as the satellite of the same name, and Laïka, which used Russian and American components from the time of the Cold War, making the former enemies improbable allies, co-existing peacefully in the passing of time. Upon discovering these pieces, the then director of the Eiffel Tower fell under their spell and asked the artist to come up with a project for a stylised version of the great iron lady herself. “Not only did I get permission to portray an illuminated Eiffel Tower in my clocks, I also received some of the tower’s original construction material with which to make them!” says an enthusiastic Frédéric Imbert, who still can’t believe it today. He used the pieces of riveted girder to produce beautiful, sculptural constructions in which to house the Eiffel Tower timepieces.

Frédéric Imbert’s marvellous Eiffel Tower creation will be exhibited on his stand at MAISON&OBJET in September, in addition to some other amazing clocks, including his bespoke creations inspired by the capital cities of the United Arab Emirates, where the artist’s part vintage, part modern aesthetic is greatly appreciated. The Emirates collection (which includes a clock inspired by the sail-shaped silhouette of the Burj-Al-Arab hotel) combines science and contemporary art in a techno pop style. The artist is working on a piece for Doha, the capital of Qatar, that will include a timer counting down the time remaining until the World Cup and he has also designed a clock that pays tribute to the Sheikh Zayed mosque, named after the father of the UAE. Dubai City Hall is also interested in a collection devoted to Expo 2020. “Local hotels and private Emirati clients have also shown interest via the decorators in charge of the private homes of members of the royal family”, adds the dynamic entrepreneur: in other words a circle of key influencers who have already made appointments to see him on his stand at MAISON&OBJET.



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LAÏKA



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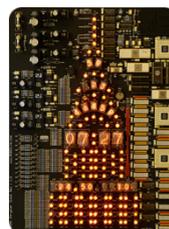
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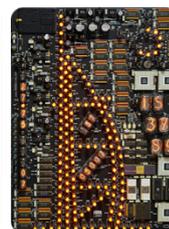
**EIFFEL
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