



# Where the Wild Things Are

'Twas the night before Christmas at the house of **CARTIER...**

**Clockwise From Left**  
The koala face is made of specially prepared straw; the Rotonde de Cartier in koala motif; the Promenade d'une Panthère watch; the Santos-Dumont XL tesserae watch with horse motif; eye of the tiger; the Rotonde de Cartier with tiger motif; the Tortue watch with cockatoo motif

“**T**ick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock.” The watches in the display count down the time. They strike in unison when all hands reach midnight. The display of watches begin vibrating with the reverberating chime, and a purring sound grows gradually more audible. Besides the purr, a grunt can be heard, then a neigh, followed by a chirp, and finally a great roar fully awakens the display. The limited edition Cartier d'Art animal watches spring to life in their glass cages.

A diamond-studded eye blinks over the inky mother-of-pearl dial-pupil of the iconic Cartier panther in the Promenade d'une Panthère watch. Set with diamonds, the feline twinkles as it prowls around the dial to make a full circle around the face, hugging the bezel set with multiple rows of diamonds. The hero

of the Cartier bestiary readies to leap out of the 18K rhodium-plated white gold case, but is leashed by the black semi-matte alligator skin strap with ardillon buckle, also in 18K rhodium-plated white gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds. It slinks back to its 42mm case.

Nearby, a koala continues to grunt, as its face peeks out from inside a Rotonde de Cartier case. Its fur, crafted of straw marquetry that layers seven different tones of glossy straw, bristles as it stares lazily out the clear crystal. The high-calibre straw, split blade by blade into different sizes and shapes, are meticulously assembled to produce volume and depth in the face. A bezel set with 43 brilliant-cut diamonds, totalling 1.6 carats, frames the koala in a 35mm case of 18K rhodium-plated white gold. Twenty koalas grunt back in unison in this family of limited edition, individually numbered timepieces. Fifty horses can be heard neighing in the

ALL THE MATERIAL IN THIS FEATURE WAS SUPPLIED BY CARTIER

background from the 50 limited edition Santos-Dumont XL watches. Made of irregularly shaped pieces of cacholong, each thoroughbred horse took 50 hours to tame onto a background of 400 minuscule tesserae, which took a further 70 hours to assemble. The tiles of earth jasper, Kalahari jasper, grey Madagascar jasper, chocolate obsidian and pink opal deliver depth, relief and an impression of light against the lively creature that is underlined in hand-engraved gold. It wrestles against its red harness and tassel in the 18K white gold case. Ten unique pieces are set with baguette-cut diamonds, cordoning off the horses from the herd of 40 stoneless timepieces.

A cacophony of chirping joins in from 80 timepieces, each caging a cockatoo plumed with layered slivers of mother-of-pearl. Ruffling its feathers, the plumage fades from pastel pink to cloudy white as it continues to call from its champlévé-enamelled beak. The

50 hours of work is carefully caged in two rows of brilliant-cut diamonds that surround the 18K white gold dial. The strap of iridescent pink alligator skin ties the birds to their cases.

The tiger roars again, its fierce face glaring from behind the crystal, its black and white stripes the result of grisaille enamelling. Chiaroscuro, the interplay of light and shade, brings the big cat to the fore, its hypnotic glance that took 40 hours of precise craftsmanship to render, surveys the delicious scene before it. Its family of 100 limited edition timepieces wait patiently in the back. Luckily, its case of 18K white gold keeps it in.

The final chime of the 24th hour resonates through the store and the clamour quiets down. A jingling of bells can be heard from above and the animals freeze in their sapphire cases in the anticipation of human activity. A rotund shadow topped with a triangular cap falls across the shop front. Christmas has arrived. ■

