GAÏA PRIZE 2022

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GAÏA PRIZE 2022

musée international d'horlogerie

The Gaïa Prize award ceremony will be presided over by Benno Widmer, Head of Culture and Society Section of the Federal Office of Culture on

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022
AT 18:00
MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL D'HORLOGERIE
RUE DES MUSÉES 29
LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

THE JURY HAS NOMINATED

Laurent Barotte

winner in the
Craftsmanship, Creation category

for his expertise in the field of clock restoration, for his contagious passion and for the ambition shown in the projects he has led with his students in restoring monumental clocks in public spaces.

Nico de Rooij

winner in the
History, Research category

for his outstanding career dedicated to research in micro-technology, for the pioneering role he has played in the processes of producing miniaturised silicon-based sensors and actuators, and for his contribution in sharing these technologies with the watchmaking industry.

Edouard Meylan

winner in the
Entrepreneurship category

for his bold career and the entrepreneurial approach he has taken with the brand H. Moser & Cie. while defending fine mechanical watchmaking and exercising complete independence in component and product development and communication.

A PRIZE SIMILAR TO NONE…
THE GAÏA PRIZE

The Gaïa Prize was created in 1993 by the Musée international d'horlogerie with an aim to honour prominent figures who have contributed and who contribute to the reputation of watchmaking – through its history, its technology and its industry. The only one of its kind, this Prize has the particularity of honouring the best of the best. By awarding this Prize, the Musée international d'horlogerie, a worldwide recognised institution and leading museum of La Chaux-de-Fonds, a town whose economic and social history is closely linked to watchmaking, wished to express its appreciation to the spiritual heirs of the watchmaking culture which impregnates the collections of the museum, as well as the town.

A distinction rather than a Prize, therefore a spontaneous application is not possible; applications presented by third parties allow the members of the Jury, prominent figures from Switzerland and abroad from various fields - cultural, journalistic, scientific or economic - to assess each contribution on a neutral basis and to choose a winner, or several whenever certain applications are thought to be complementary to each other. The independence of the Jury is guaranteed by its President, the Curator of the Musée international d'horlogerie.

GAÏA PRIZE 2022

musée international d'horlogerie

JURY 2022

Régis Huguenin, conservateur du Musée international d'horlogerie, président du jury

François Aubert, président du comité du Musée d'horlogerie du Locle - Château des Monts
Patrick Dubois, président, Laboratoire Dubois
Estelle Fallet, conservateur en chef, Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève
Philippe Fischer, directeur de la Fondation Suisse pour la Recherche en Microtechnique
Joël Grandjean, journaliste, éditeur et rédacteur en chef JSH Magazine
Serge Maillard, journaliste, éditeur Europa Star
Nathalie Marielloni, conservatrice adjointe, Musée international d'horlogerie
Nathalie Tissot, professeure de droit de la propriété intellectuelle, Université de Neuchâtel
Kari Voutilainen, horloger indépendant
Silas Walton, fondateur et CEO A Collected Man

Laurent Barotte

Craftsmanship, Creation

The Prix Gaïa jury is paying tribute to Laurent Barotte for his expertise in the field of clock restoration, for his contagious passion and for the ambition shown in the projects he has led with his students in restoring monumental clocks in public spaces.

Career

Born in Giromagny (Territoire de Belfort) in 1961, Laurent Barotte obtained his professional certificate in watchmaking (CAP) in Besançon in 1980; he then pursued his studies at the watchmaking school in Le Locle in the micro-mechanics and clockmaking department (Technicum, 1982-1983); from 1983 to 1984, he worked at the Watch Museum of Le Locle, where he specialised in restoring antique clocks. For three years, Laurent Barotte worked in Bern, at Scherer, before putting his skills into practice with Dominique Mouret in Sainte-Croix, from 1987 to 1990, the year in which he set up his own clock restoration workshop near Fribourg.

In 1995, he began to teach part-time at the Technical College in Porrentruy, sharing his expertise in the theory and practice of watchmaking. The following year, he moved to Porrentruy with his family.

Alongside his teaching, he restored many 17th- to 19th-century clocks owned by private individuals or museums. In 2003, he became a full-time teacher specialising in clockmaking.

Together with his students, in 2004, he completed work on the clock for the centenary of the Vocational Centre in Porrentruy (the current Technical Division of the Jura Centre for Education and Training [CEJEF]), which was started four years earlier. This clock was the fruit of 1500 hours' labour, and is a copy of the clock created in 1754 by Jean-Pierre Droz of La Ferrière, official clockmaker to the Prince-Bishopric of Basel.

He has employed his expert skills to complete some prestigious restoration work, including dedicating 4000 hours from 2004-2006 to restore an 18th-century clock featuring a moving sphere from the Kunstkamera museum in St Petersburg, in collaboration with the Lycée Edgar Faure watchmaking school in Morteau, France.

From 2010-2011, he also restored the clock (dated 1713) equipped with a monumental movement in the tower of the archway, the Porte Saint-Pierre in Saint-Ursanne; in 2016, in another collaboration with his students, he restored the clock (dated 1761) in the City Hall of Porrentruy. This restoration was the fruit of over 1000 hours' work invested by Laurent Barotte and his students to restore monumental clocks in public spaces.

From 2007-2015, in collaboration with his successive students, Laurent Barotte was involved in a magnificent collective work: creating, producing and installing the monumental clock in Quebec, offered as a gift from the Canton of Jura to the Canadian city on the banks of the Saint-Laurent river.

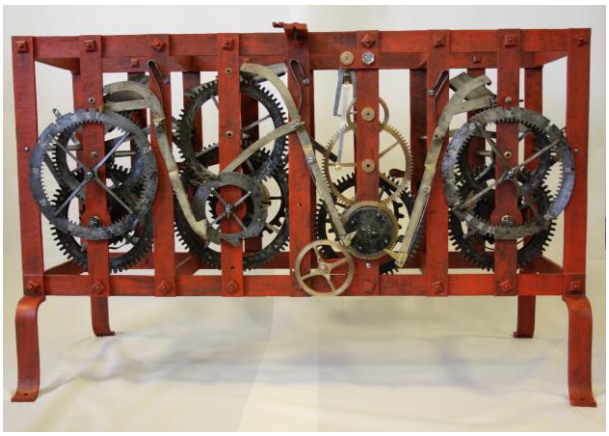
Laurent Barotte is a lively extrovert, yet also a humble and authentic man who pursues perfection in his passions for watchmaking and teaching. He is one of the leading experts in antique clocks and one of their staunchest advocates in current training courses which tend to prioritise individual timepieces over large-scale clocks.
In 2015, Laurent Barotte won the "Artisan d'Art" award as part of the European Prize for Applied Arts (JEMA Jura). Everyone holds Laurent Barotte in very high regard for his approach to teaching, his desire to pass on his knowledge, and his encouraging attitude towards his watchmaking students.

Accomplishments

2004-2006. Project "Epmosphere". Restoration of a clock with a moving heliocentric sphere, signed Joseph Dupressoir, from the Kunstkamera Museum in St Petersburg (the museum of the private collections of Emperor Peter I the Great).

2010-2011. The "La Berbatte clock", St-Ursanne. Laurent Barotte undertook the arduous task of restoring the "La Berbatte clock", in collaboration with three students from the Technical Division of the Jura Centre for Education and Training (CEJEF).

2008-2014. The Clock gifted to Quebec.
This outstanding double-sided clock was a tour de force led by Salvador Arbona (Guenat SA - Montres Valgine) and Laurent Barotte. The finished clock was the fruit of six years' work, involving 28 different disciplines, hundreds of individuals, with over 6500 hours spent on development and around 4000 hours on assembly. The students of the technical college in Porrentruy and of the Haute École Arc were also involved in this work. This piece is also an "ode to the mysterious", as its hands seem to float freely in mid-air.



2016. Clock in the City Hall of Porrentruy. Created in 1761 by clockmaker Daniel Ducommun-dit-Tinnon from La Chaux-de-Fonds, the City Hall clock was restored thanks to the efforts of around a dozen students from the technical college in Porrentruy under the supervision of Laurent Barotte.

Nico de Rooij

History, Research

The Prix Gaïa jury is paying tribute to Nico de Rooij for his outstanding career dedicated to research in micro-technology, for the pioneering role he has played in the processes of producing miniaturised silicon-based sensors and actuators, and for his contribution in sharing these technologies with the watchmaking industry.

Career

Nico de Rooij received his M.Sc. degree in physical chemistry from the State University of Utrecht in 1974 and a Ph.D. degree from Twente University of Technology in the Netherlands, in 1978. From 1978 to 1982, he worked at the Research and Development Department of Cordis Europa N.V., in the Netherlands.

He was appointed Professor at the University of Neuchatel in 1982, and Head of the Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Laboratory (SAMLAB). Alongside his work in Neuchâtel, Nico de Rooij lectures occasionally at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETFZ) and, since 1989, has been a part-time professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL).

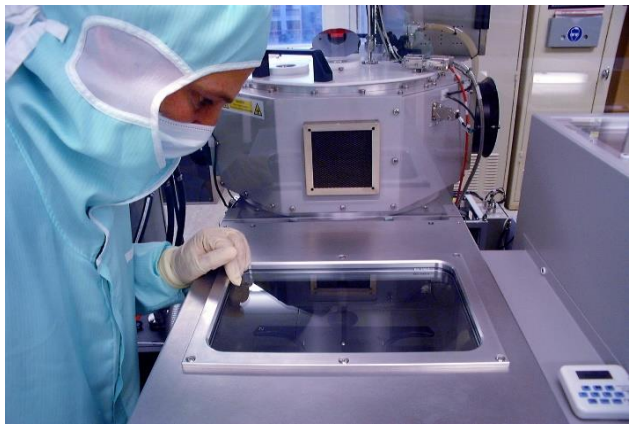
He has been a pioneer in his research into the processes involved in producing, designing and modelling miniaturised sensors and actuators made from silicon, a lightweight, antimagnetic material. These microsystems have been developed for use in many fields such as medicine, ecology, space research or watchmaking. In particular, since 1996, the Deep Reactive Ion Etching process has been developed in his laboratory, initially designed to produce opto-micromechanical components.

A bridge-builder between research and industry, Nico de Rooij initiated the transfer of technologies which resulted in the production of many innovative products. The components and microsystems created in his laboratory have given rise to several start-ups in the Neuchâtel region (Seyonic SA, Sercalo SA, 1Drop Diagnostics).

From 1990 to 1996 and from 2002 to 2012, Nico de Rooij was director of the Institute of Microtechnology (IMT), first at the University of Neuchâtel and, from 2009, as part of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL). During this time, he helped

to grow the Neuchâtel centre of the IMT significantly, increasing the number of Chairs from four to ten; he also oversaw the construction of Microcity: a new building dedicated to microtechnology in the city of Neuchâtel. In 2008, he was appointed Vice-President of the Swiss Centre for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM SA) in Neuchâtel, heading the new Microsystems Technology division.

In the early 2000s, the deep etching expertise developed in his laboratory enabled the CSEM to produce the silicon wheels required to create an escapement with two pallet wheels, designed by Ludwig Oechslin and sold by the Manufacture Ulysse Nardin in its Freak model, the first timepiece equipped with silicon components. After this, Nico de Rooij continued to build momentum in research and support the wider watchmaking industry to use monocrystalline silicon, as its remarkable elasticity could boost the performance of watch movements while retaining the traditional operating principles. Enhancements in the Deep Reactive Ion Etching process were based on many projects completed in conjunction with the CSEM and various watchmaking manufactures, including as part of community watchmaking research (ASRH - the Swiss Association for Horological Research) and with the Haute École Arc. The door was thus opened for an innovative revival of mechanical watchmaking.



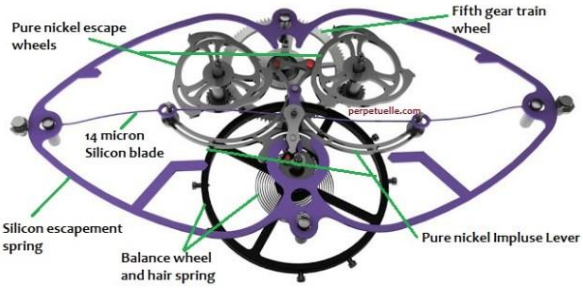
Technological laboratory ComLab – Institute of microtechnology of the University of Neuchâtel and CSEM, in the early 2000s.

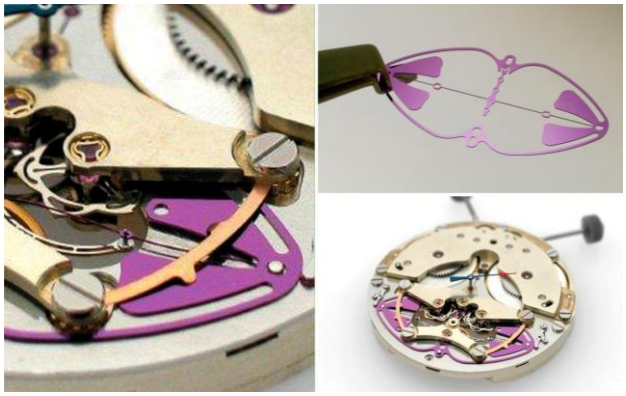
Silicon oxidation furnaces, ComLab IMT-UniNE – CSEM.

Close connections were built in particular with the manufacture Patek Philippe and many innovations relating to balance-springs, pallet and escapement wheels using silicon resulted from this collaboration.

Silicon components (lever, escapement wheel, balance wheel, hairspring) developed in cooperation with Patek Philippe (2008-2011).

His laboratory's expertise in micro-fabrication and mathematical simulation were also decisive in making it possible to produce silicon parts including a blade measuring one sixth of a hair's breadth and used, for example, to drive a constant force escapement from the Manufacture Girard-Perregaux, invented by Nicolas Dehon.





Constant-force escapement with silicon component, produced in collaboration with Girard-Perregaux (2008).

In 2005, Nico de Rooij launched the large-scale collaborative project known as CIMENT (Interuniversity Centre for Micro and Nano Technologies) between the University of Neuchâtel, the Neuchâtel Observatory and the EPFL. The development of miniature atomic clocks began as part of this project.

In 2011, under the direction of Nico de Rooij, the EPFL opened the Patek Philippe Chair in the Neuchâtel IMT; this professorship was dedicated to the application of new micro and nano technologies in watchmaking, opening up new perspectives on the tradition in Neuchâtel of fundamental research in watchmaking. Finally, in 2013, Nico de Rooij helped to create Patek Philippe Technologies SA. Comprising a team from the Microsystems Technology division of the CSEM led by Sylvain Jeanneret, the company was set up to produce silicon watch components on an industrial scale.

In 2016, after his retirement, Nico de Rooij became Professor Emeritus at the EPFL. He has won many prizes and has been a member of several international executive boards; he has also written over 400 articles published in his specialised fields. Furthermore, he has directed and co-directed over 70 doctoral theses during his academic career, mostly financed thanks to an adept and respected association with the worlds of academia and industry. Nico de Rooij is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the COSC (The Official Swiss Chronometer Testing Institute)

Publications (selection)

V. Venkatraman, Y.Pétremand, N. de Rooij, H. Shea "Reliability characteristics of microfabricated Rb mini-lamps for optical pumping in miniature atomic clocks and magnetometers", Proc. SPIE 8614, Reliability, Packaging, Testing, and Characterization of MOEMS/MEMS and Nanodevices XII, 861406, 2013.

N.F. de Rooij, "Successful technology transfer of selected MEMS activities to the Watch Manufacturing Industry." SIMTech, 2008.

W. Noell, P.-A. Clerc, S. Jeanneret, A. Hoogerwerf, P. Niedermann, A. Perret, P.-A. Farine, N.F. de Rooij, "MEMS for watches," 17th IEEE International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems. Maastricht MEMS 2004 Technical Digest, 2004, p. 1-4.

A. Perret, A. Hoogerwerf, P. Niedermann, Xiao-Ming Tang, S. Jeanneret, P.-A. Clerc, N.F. de Rooij, P. Gygax, "Silicon as material for mechanical wristwatches", Proceeding of Spie – the international Society for Optical Engineering, 4755, 2002, p. 645-647.

P.-A. Clerc, N. de Rooij et al. “Advanced deep reactive ion etching: a versatile tool for microelectromechanical systems.” Journal of Micromechanics and Micro-engi-neering, 8, 1998, p. 272-278.

L. Dellmann, S. Roth, C. Beuret, G.A. Racine, H. Lorenz, M. Despon, P. Renaud, P. Vettiger, N.F. de Rooij, "Fabrication process of high aspect ratio elastic and SU-8 structures for piezoelectric motor applications", IEEE MEMS, 1997, p. 518-522.

B. Kloeck, S.D. Collins, N.F. de Rooij, R.L. Smith, "Study of electrochemical etch-stop for high-precision thickness control of silicon membranes", IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, vol. 36/4, 1989, p. 663-669.

R. Buser, N. F. de Rooij, "Tuning Forks in Silicon", IEEE Micro-Electro Mechanical Systems, 1989, p. 94-95.

Edouard Meylan

Entrepreneurship

The Prix Gaïa jury is paying tribute to Edouard Meylan for his bold career and the entrepreneurial approach he has taken with the brand H. Moser & Cie. while defending fine mechanical watchmaking and exercising complete independence in component and product development and communication.

Career

Born in 1976 into a watchmaking family in Vallée de Joux, Edouard Meylan's interest in this field was sparked from a very early age; even as a teenager, he would help out in the watchmaking manufactures. After obtaining a Engineering Master's Degree in microtechnology from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), he became a consultant at the audit and consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Zurich. In the early 2000s, Edouard Meylan moved into watchmaking, in Asia, working first in distribution, then for engineering consultancy firm Desco, heading their offices in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. After returning to his studies and completing the Wharton MBA program (in Philadelphia, USA), he cofounded Celsius X VI II, a mobile phone company based on watch technology.

In 2005, the company H. Moser & Cie. reappeared on the international watchmaking scene, led by Dr Jürgen Lange.

In 2013, the Meylan family took over the reins of the company. Surrounded by members of his family, the new CEO Edouard Meylan was a breath of fresh air and positioned the brand as a bold, innovative - and sometime provocative - player on the watchmaking scene and in communications in which he personally played an active part.

Based in Neuhausen am Rheinfall, the company currently employs around sixty staff, has developed 15 manufacture calibres to date and produces over 1500 watches a year. With the help of its sister company, Precision Engineering AG (PEAG), H. Moser & Cie. develops components such as regulating organs and balance-springs, which it uses for its own production and

which it also supplies to partner companies. An intermediary company of the Moser Watch Holding group, Precision Engineering specialises in watch escapement components, from the design phase to the production of a final high-quality product ready to be integrated into the movement which it is designed to regulate. Thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit instilled in PEAG during this reorganisation and the subsequent investments in production facilities, the company now works with the biggest names in the Swiss watch industry.

Under the direction of entrepreneur Edouard Meylan, the H. Moser & Cie. brand has returned to profitability and has successfully carved a niche for itself in the watchmaking world, particularly by creating conversation pieces which echo current debates. Occupying a unique position which brings together traditional watchmaking and original designs, brand communication and product development, Edouard Meylan is renowned for his bold standpoints. Defying conventional norms, H. Moser & Cie. defends fine mechanical watchmaking, with complete independence.

Accomplishments

2015. Endeavour Concept Watch
By creating a fumé dial with sunray decoration, with no embellishment, indices or logo, H. Moser & Cie. highlights that the key to the success of every brand is its watchmaking and dialmaking talent. Hand-wound manufacture HMC 343 calibre, hours, minutes, central seconds, power reserve on the movement side.

2016. Swiss Alp Watch

Amid the buzz generated by smart watches, rather than create a model with an electronic heart and the face of a mechanical watch, H. Moser & Cie. took the opposite approach: the Swiss Alp Watch draws its inspiration from the modern design of smart watches but it is fully mechanical. Hand-wound HMC324 calibre with small seconds.

2017. Swiss Mad Watch

The Swiss Mad Watch contributed to the Swiss Made debate. With this unique, satirical piece, H. Moser & Cie. paid tribute to the most precious 100% Swiss natural resource available: cows! As a result, the case of the Swiss Mad Watch is made of real Swiss cheese – an award-winning Vacherin Mont d'Or – which has been integrated into an innovate composite material, itr2©, then machined, polished and finished to H. Moser's high standards. For the strap, H. Moser & Cie. opted for Swiss cowhide. The piece is topped with a red fumé dial and doubled indices at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock, to evoke the Swiss flag.

2019. Swiss Alp Watch Concept Black
After removing its logo and indices from the dial of its Concept models, this watch without hands tells the time without showing it. To tell the time, you must listen closely. This piece sees H. Moser & Cie. playing with contrasts with an ultra-minimalist watch featuring a minute repeater and a tourbillon in a rectangular case with the look of a smart watch. Hand-wound HMC 901 calibre.

HORIZON GAÏA

Julien Gressot

Grant holder

Alongside the three categories used to honour leading figures in the watchmaking world, Horizon Gaïa, an incentive grant made possible thanks to the generosity of the Watch Academy Foundation, is being awarded to encourage new talent in the fields recognised by the Prix Gaïa: Craftsmanship - Creation, History - Research, and Entrepreneurship. The grant will finance all or part of an individual project.

The Horizon Gaïa scholarship has been awarded to Julien Gressot, a PhD student completing his doctoral thesis in the History of Technology at the University of Neuchâtel.

His thesis project aims to give an overview of the scientific and technological heritage of the Neuchâtel Observatory and is entitled "Inventorying, preserving and sharing an exceptional heritage of science and technology. Retracing the history of the Neuchâtel Observatory through the history of its scientific instruments". The aim is to create an accurate inventory of the scientific instruments and their sources, to encourage the preservation and study of this corpus of high heritage value, to give it overall coherence, to guide an acquisition policy and to raise awareness of the life of an institution which has marked the history of the region.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Craftsmanship, Creation

It is without any doubt the desire to honour the bold, creative watchmakers, craftmen and women that in some cases work in relative anonymity, with their names unobtrusively associated with big businesses, which urged the prize's founders to see them honoured in the first instance.

Ten years ago, the work of these profound, inventive and determined individuals was not as well recognised by the general public, not specialising or passionate about watchmaking, as it is today. We like to think that the Gaïa Prize has made a modest contribution to revealing the work of some of its ingenious craftsmen.

History, Research

The individuals honoured for their contribution to watchmaking history, techniques or more generally time measurement, by way of their writings or museum activities, come from a very wide variety of training backgrounds. Watchmakers, sales personnel or university students, their passion, learning and culture have led them to carry out research, historical studies or other work that has enabled them to contribute to the dissemination of watchmaking culture. This prize is also related to a wish to recognise historians and researchers who have at times worked unseen on the development of knowledge.

Entrepreneurship

What would watchmaking be without the entrepreneurship that has enabled this art to take root and grow over the centuries. It evolved from craftsmanship to industry, with all the implications from production to product distribution. Over the past centuries, ingenious watchmakers have been able to instil this will to promote their works, and it is now only right to recognise and honour the men and women who have now pursued the same goals, ensuring that the quality of their products is recognised here and worldwide, and above all that new research is still constantly undertaken to improve timekeepers.

HORIZON GAÏA

Alongside the three categories used to honour leading figures in the watchmaking world, Horizon Gaïa, an incentive grant is being awarded to encourage new talent in the fields recognised by the Prix Gaïa: Craftsmanship - Creation, History - Research, and Entrepreneurship. The grant will finance all or part of an individual project.

GAÏA PRIZE 2022

musée international d'horlogerie

PRIZE WINNERS SINCE 1993

1993		
† Jean-Claude Nicolet	Craftsmanship, Creation
† Henry Louis Belmont	History, Research
† André Margot	Entrepreneurship
1994		
François-Paul Journe	Craftsmanship, Creation
† François Mercier	History, Research
† Anton Bally	Entrepreneurship
1995		
Michel Parmigiani	Craftsmanship, Creation
Ludwig Oechslin	History, Research
Antoine Simonin	Entrepreneurship
1996		
Vincent Calabrese	Craftsmanship, Creation
Jean-Luc Mayaud	History, Research
† Günter Blümlein	Entrepreneurship
1997		
† Richard Daners	Craftsmanship, Creation
† Jean-Claude Sabrier	History, Research
Jean-Pierre Musy	Entrepreneurship
1998		
Philippe Dufour	Craftsmanship, Creation
Yves Droz and Joseph Flores	History, Research
† Luigi Macaluso	Entrepreneurship
1999		
† Derek Pratt	Craftsmanship, Creation
Estelle Fallet	History, Research
Gabriel Feuvrier	Entrepreneurship
2000		
† René Bannwart	Craftsmanship, Creation
† Kathleen Pritschard	History, Research
† Simone Bédat	Entrepreneurship
2001		
† George Daniels	Craftsmanship, Creation
Catherine Cardinal	History, Research
† Rolf Schnyder	Entrepreneurship
2003		
Anthony G. Randall	Craftsmanship, Creation
2004		
André Beyner	Entrepreneurship
2006		
† Luigi Pippa	Craftsmanship, Creation
† John H. Leopold	History, Research
2007		
Paul Gerber	Craftsmanship, Creation
2008		
† Nicolas G. Hayek	Entrepreneurship
2009		
Beat Haldimann	Craftsmanship, Creation
Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey	Entrepreneurship
2010		
Jacques Mueller and Elmar Mock	Craftsmanship, Creation
Jean-Claude Biver	Entrepreneurship
2011		
François Junod	Craftsmanship, Creation
Pierre-Yves Donzé	History, Research
Philippe Stern	Entrepreneurship
2012		
Eric Coudray	Craftsmanship, Creation
Francesco Garufo	History, Research
Franco Cologni	Entrepreneurship
2013		
Andreas Strehler	Craftsmanship, Creation
Günther Oestmann	History, Research
Ernst Thomke	Entrepreneurship

GAÏA PRIZE 2022

musée international d'horlogerie

2014		2022	
Kari Voutilainen	Craftsmanship, Creation	Laurent Barotte	Craftsmanship, Creation
Pierre Thomann	History, Research	Nico de Rooij	History, Research
Henri Dubois	Entrepreneurship	Edouard Meylan	Entrepreneurship
2015			
Anita Porchet	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Jonathan Betts	History, Research		
Giulio Papi	Entrepreneurship		
2016			
Vianney Halter	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Roger Smith	History, Research		
Giovanni Busca and Pascal Rochat	Entrepreneurship		
2017			
Jean-Marc Wiederrecht	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Laurence Marti	History, Research		
Richard Mille	Entrepreneurship		
2018			
Paul Clementi	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Reinhard Meis	History, Research		
Maximilian Büsser	Entrepreneurship		
2019			
Suzanne Rohr	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Laurent Tissot	History, Research		
Karl-Friedrich Scheufele	Entrepreneurship		
2020			
Antoine Preziuso	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Denis Savoie	History, Research		
Felix Baumgartner and Martin Frei	Entrepreneurship		
2021			
Carole Kasapi	Craftsmanship, Creation		
Anthony Turner	History, Research		
Eric Klein	Entrepreneurship		

RULES

1. The Gaïa Prize is an honorary distinction bestowed annually, each autumn, by the International Watchmaking Museum (MIH), and consequently, by the Swiss town of La Chaux-de-Fonds.

2. The Gaïa Prize is awarded to individuals who have participated in developing and reinforcing knowledge of watchmaking through their work and achievements in 3 categories:
- Craftsmanship and Creation in watchmaking
- History and Research in watchmaking and timekeeping
- Entrepreneurship in watchmaking
The Awards Committee awards one prize in each of the three categories but reserves the right not to award a prize in one or more of the categories.

3. The Committee's decision on the prizewinner(s) is final.

4. The award nominees are chosen irrespective of their nationality.

5. All nominations, excluding personal ones, are taken into consideration.
Only nominations submitted before 21st March will be included in the current year's selection process.

6. After validating the nominations, the Management of MIH submits the list of nominees to the Awards Committee.

7. Members of the Awards Committee are appointed by the Management of MIH.

8. The Awards Committee is chaired by the Curator and is composed of three members of the Management of MIH and figures from various fields relating to watchmaking. There are between 10 and 15 members on the Committee. Every year, three members are replaced, in principle.

9. The Committee can legitimately deliberate if at least five members are present.

10. A member of the jury can participate in the vote only if he has followed the entire deliberations concerning the candidates of a category. No vote before the deliberations will be taken into account. The Chair, the Curator of MIH, takes part in the voting. In the event of a tie in the voting, the Chair has the deciding vote.

11. In the event of dispute or doubt concerning the interpretation or application of these rules, the Chair of the Awards Committee shall decide.