

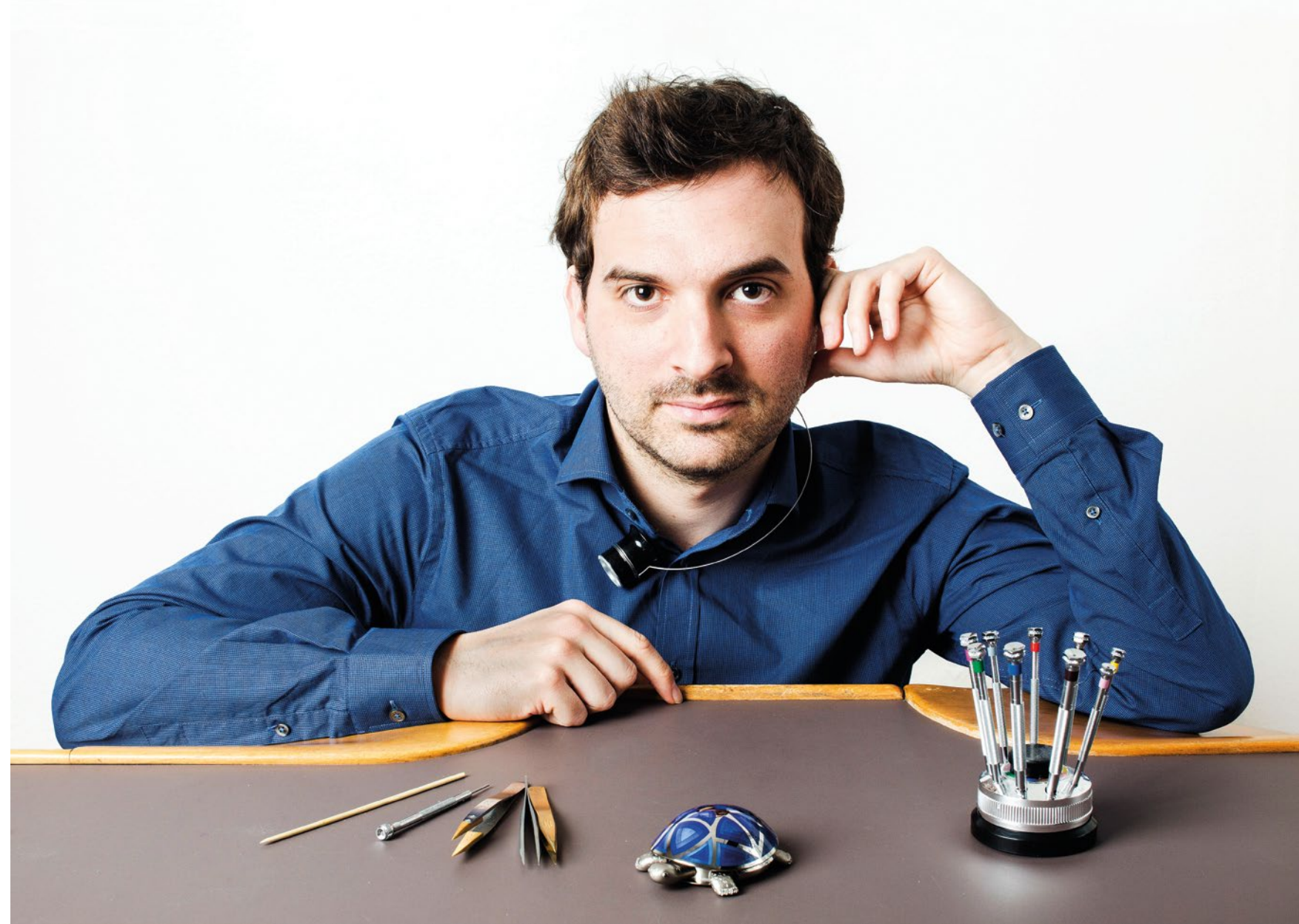




**PAGÈS**

CRÉATEUR D'AUTOMATES  
LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

**Raúl Pagès**  
Creator of automata / Master watchmaker



Raúl Pagès is specialized in high-end automata, art pieces powered by a mechanism very similar to a *haute horlogerie* movement.

Native of the Jura Arc, cradle of the Swiss watchmaking industry, Raúl Pagès completed his education with a dual specialization in restoration and horological complications and in horological construction. He acquired a thorough knowledge of automata through his work in horological restoration, especially when working on Fabergé eggs, some of which contained mechanical animals. For six years, Raúl Pagès worked as a watchmaker at Parmigiani Fleurier, which brought him into close contact with unique timepieces that are part of the watchmaking heritage.



His passion for high-quality movements and delicate ornamentation gave rise to his desire to recreate this 19th century tradition. Raúl Pagès founded the independent brand PAGÈS in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 2012. Putting into practice the experience and knowledge gained during his work as a restorer, he creates objects that are in keeping with the times, unique pieces using contemporary design and the finest materials. His vision is based on the core values of creativity, innovation and expertise applied to miniature works of art that both charm and entertain by their playful aspect and aesthetic refinement.



The "Tortoise" automaton  
Piece unique



The Tortoise is an exceptional piece with a unique finish. The automaton moves thanks to a mechanism similar to a watch movement. A key is used to wind up the Tortoise which then moves forward while moving its legs and head.

The Tortoise is the result of several years of work that have gone into the search for excellence. This unique piece has been entirely manufactured in Switzerland. All the parts that go into the movement — a total of over 300 — were produced by craftsmen in the greatest respect of watchmaking traditions.

The ingenuity of the mechanism is combined with the sumptuous decor of the shell made from fine materials. The shell, the legs and the head are made out of 18-cts gold. Diamonds have been inserted in the claws and the eyes are decorated with sapphires.



The shell was engraved and enamelled by specialized craftsmen in the area. Many techniques, such as hand bevelling, guilloché work, Côtes de Genève, polished screws, bridge graining and rhodium-plating have been used to obtain an exquisite finish.

The tortoise is the emblem of longevity, wisdom and perseverance, values that Raúl Pagès seeks to express in his automata. The animal also symbolises the philosophy of his work : a search for continuity that perpetuates the tradition of miniature automata.

With this unique piece, PAGÈS brings back to life the forgotten tradition of prestigious automatons.





This type of automata first appeared in the 17C. In the next two centuries, automata reached the peak of their popularity, especially with pieces created by such ingenious watchmakers as Jaquet-Droz, Henri Maillardet and Karl Fabergé. Originally intended for world leaders — European kings, Chinese emperors, Russian czars and Turkish sultans — the automata also enthralled the crowds that thronged to the exhibitions where these exceptional objects were displayed.

The manufacture of these celebrated automata ceased in the early 20C. Wishing to revive this ancient tradition, Raúl Pagès today creates contemporary designs inspired by the masterpieces of the past.



PAGÈS Automates SA  
Rue Numa-Droz 88  
CH – 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds  
Switzerland

T +41 32 913 16 34  
M +41 79 814 04 46  
info@pages-automates.com  
www.pages-automates.com

Graphisme: supero.ch  
Photos: Reto Duriet (3), Renaud Sterchi (5 – 15)

