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RULE OF

THREE

Time Changers presents the O-Yoroi, a watch that embodies the code of the samurai and the timekeeping qualities of the Swiss

STORY: SABRINA LEE PHOTOS: TIME CHANGERS



Founded by three Italian men: Romano Alberti, Fausto Lancini and Roberto Janniello, Time Changers is a project that combines the men's love for art, culture, history, tradition and craft excellence.

Based in Bergamo, Italy, the three men depend on with their sense of creativity imbued with a philosophical spirit, to create limited edition Italian-designed, Swiss-manufactured timepieces.

Both enthusiasts of martial arts like Aikido, Kenjutsu and Iai-do (the art of extracting the katana), Alberti and Janniello first met in a dojo. It was only after several years that Alberti decided to share his vision for the O-Yoroi — a watch inspired by the great Samurai armor from the Edo period — with his friend.

"I was curious about this samurai watch concept. But I truly became fascinated when I saw that a prototype had already existed. It was made by Lancini," said Janniello when he first stepped into the laboratory of Alberti and Fausto. A graphic designer by profession, Alberti designed watches

only for Time Changers, a company founded by the three men.

The prototype for the O-Yoroi was made by artisan Lancini, a modeller by profession, the 70-year-old craftsman spent most 44 years of his life sculpting cars, motorbikes, trucks or anything on wheels. Upon retiring, he decided to dedicate his life to watches.

"He's my 3D printer, for real," says Alberti. "Fausto enjoys creating his own watches and prototypes. We're looking to create a brand for Fausto next year," adds Janniello.

For now, the watchmakers are in town to promote the O-Yoroi, a model both Alberti and Fausto worked on together, and one that received much praise at this year's Baselworld for its uniqueness and execution.

Every element of the watch recalls the different parts and internal design layers of a samurai costume. The armor of the Samurai comprises the Kabuto (used to protect the head) which is featured on the watch's dial and crown; the

shoulder protection (Sode), can be seen replicated in the watch's crown. The protection for the arms (Kote), bust (Do), belly (Kuzazuri), legs (Haidate), and feet (Suneate), are represented around the case and in the bends of the O-Yoroi.

Limited to only 150 pieces, the O-Yoroi took four years to reach fruition. It features a self-winding mechanical movement with 31 rubies and encased in steel. It has a fixed bezel and a diameter measuring at 43mm, making this watch suitable for both men and women. It comes with a strap made from calf leather and stingray, which mirrors the handle of the katana blade — a traditional Japanese sword usually made from wood and wrapped in stingray skin.

The O-Yoroi's visible movement is seen through anti-reflective sapphire glass. Each watch comes in an original wooden box with a hand-painted sakura flower on the lid, and two interchangeable leather strap bands.

[For more info, call E'Collezione: +65 6737 3820]