

We have a Winner!

**Ressence and Sotheby's Reveal the Winner of
The #WatchesAgainstCovid19 Design Competition**

**THE WATCH COMMUNITY CHOOSES
DESIGN BY ENGLISH FATHER-OF-TWO,
Celebrating Human Values and the Dedication of
Key Workers during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**The Winning Design is now being turned into a Unique Watch
To be Auctioned for Charity by Sotheby's in July**

Proceeds will Benefit KU Leuven University's Covid-19 Research Programme



27 May 2020 – A month ago, independent watchmaker Ressence and Sotheby's launched a competition to design a unique watch, offering watch-lovers the opportunity to create their own interpretation of one of Ressence's latest models, the Type 1 Slim. In the past few weeks, **466 people**, from children and professional designers to watchmakers such as Alain Silberstein, enthusiastically entered the competition and submitted their #WatchAgainstCovid19 designs.

A winner has now been chosen by the Instagram watch community among four finalists selected by Ressence founder Benoît Mintiens. The winning design - a pastel blue watch signed by English father-of-two **Raymond Ramsden** – is now being produced by Ressence’s manufacture in Switzerland, before it goes to auction in Sotheby’s Hong Kong Important Watches sale on 11 July. Proceeds from the sale will support the Covid-19 Research Programme being run by KU Leuven University in Belgium.

Ressence Founder and CEO Benoît Mintiens said: *“Letting our community have the final say and be part of our project felt like the right thing to do. During the selection process, we discussed the feasibility of the designs with our Swiss manufacturers. We also wanted to create a genuine one-off, so we opted for entries that were far from our own artistic direction. And most importantly, we chose optimistic approaches which would bring a message of hope in the current difficult times.”*

THE WINNER & HIS DESIGN

58-year old Raymond Ramsden lives in Yorkshire, England and submitted his design on the 29th of April.

- The main blue colour represents the medical staff, key workers and all the people who, by their work and dedication, supported society through the coronavirus pandemic.
- The red hand symbolises human interaction and the importance of washing hands to limit its spread.
- The blue subdial is the planet we share.
- The yellow subdial is the sun giving warmth, light and life.
- The white subdial is the moon: aspirations, romance, and dreams.
- The red 19 marker is a discreet reference to the coronavirus.
- The winner had been asked to provide an inscription for the engraving on the back of the case. Raymond chose “Ayrton & Fin” - the names of his sons - as, in his own words, *“the children of the world are the future”*.



Minor changes have been made to Raymond’s design, following Ressence’s discussion with its suppliers. The original drawing and renderings made by Martin Miškolci, the artist commissioned by Ressence, can be found in the press images.

KU LEUVEN

Proceeds of the sale will go to the [Covid-19 Research Programme](#) of the KU Leuven and UZ Leuven universities. The aim of the programme is to research a vaccine, advanced detection and new molecular treatments against the virus. For more information on donations, please click [here](#).

PRESS IMAGES are available for download [here](#) (credit: @Ressence)

For more news, visit [RessenceWatches.com](#) and [Sothebys.com/Watches](#) and follow us on [@ressence_watches](#) and [@SothebysWatches](#)

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ABOUT RESSENCE

Ressence was founded in 2010 with one goal in mind; improving the functionality of the mechanical watch in the 21st century context. The attention was primarily given on making the watch more legible and easier to use. Ressence created a unique dial with discs, then filled it with oil and replaced the crown by a lever to only name a few of their ground- breaking developments. By improving the functionality, Ressence ultimately improved our relation with the mechanical watch. Winners of the 2013 Horological Revelation Award at the prestigious Grand Prix d'Horlogerie, Ressence takes a distinctive approach to the craft of contemporary Fine Watchmaking, combining Swiss-made calibres with unmatched self-engineered innovation to reimagining how mechanical watches can function and interact with its user in the modern age.

ABOUT SOTHEBY'S

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby's Wine, Sotheby's Diamonds, and Sotheby's Home, the online marketplace for interior design.



**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*