

United by Passion

Watches and Culture by FHH Hosts Its First Community Meet-Up in London with 'A Talk With' Live Event



London, March 25, 2025 – In its ongoing mission to engage new audiences, Watches and Culture by FHH hosted its first-ever community meet-up in London, bringing the digital community together for a live edition of its A Talk With series. Held at Kave London on 13th March, this afterwork event provided an intimate setting where industry professionals, collectors, journalists, influencers, and watch enthusiasts gathered to celebrate their shared passion for watchmaking.

At the heart of the evening was a panel discussion moderated by Scarlett Baker, featuring Francesca Grima, Emily Marsden, and Kate Lacey—three remarkable women whose journeys in watchmaking have been as unexpected as they are inspiring. Their conversation explored the emotional and personal connections people develop with their watches, moving beyond the financial value of timepieces to the deeper stories and attachments they hold.



Francesca Grima

For Francesca Grima, Creative Director of Grima Jewellery, discovering the impact of her father's, Andrew Grima's, iconic Omega creations only came after meeting other collectors and immersing herself in the world of horology. Reflecting on the essence of watch collecting, she shared, "It's more about people's shared passion for watches than the watches themselves." Her appreciation extends beyond the prestigious pieces she inherited; she finds equal joy in a quirky £100 watch with a sushi dial—one that doesn't even tell the time but carries its own charm.

Kate Lacey, a buyer and valuer for David Duggan, Senior Consultant for Rosebery's, and founder of The Shrew Shop, described how the watch community fosters friendships through shared passion. "Some watches really are meant for certain people. Through this hobby, you meet collectors who become friends. They learn your tastes and share watches with you that are meant for your wrist, ones you didn't even know about," she explained. Coming from a background in antique furniture, Kate recognised the same craftsmanship and intricate detailing in horology, drawing her deeper into the world of watches.



Kate Lacey



Emily Marsden

Emily Marsden, an enthusiast and collector, recounted how her love for watchmaking is driven by its technical and mechanical brilliance. "I'm fifteen years into the hobby but only eight months into having my channel, @secretdiaryofawatchgirl. But it's become an obsession, and it's really this mechanical side of the horological universe that speaks to me." Her fascination began at the age of thirteen when she walked into Watches of Switzerland in her school uniform, eager to see a timepiece up close. That same curiosity led her to an amusing early encounter with watch collecting: "A boy in my school was wearing a fake Rolex. I went home that day and said to my Mom, 'I've got to go on eBay and get one of these bad boys.'"

The panelists' stories highlighted the unexpected journeys that brought them into the world of watches, emphasising that collecting is not just about ownership but about the emotional connection to each piece. Whether it is the thrill of acquiring a watch, the appreciation of its craftsmanship, or the friendships formed along the way, the discussion underscored how horology serves as a bridge between people.

Set against the warm, intimate backdrop of Kave London, a hidden speakeasy, the evening captured the essence of Watches and Culture by FHH—authentic, passionate, and refreshingly informal. The enthusiasm of the speakers was contagious, drawing the audience into a lively and insightful conversation that extended beyond the panel itself. Among the attendees was the renowned George Bamford, joining a crowd united by their fascination with watches, their stories, and their power to connect people across different backgrounds.



Kave London

This inaugural London meet-up marks a significant milestone for Watches and Culture, reaffirming its commitment to fostering dialogue, discovery, and engagement in the world of horology. More than just an event, it was a celebration of the human connections formed through timepieces, a sentiment best summed up by Francesca Grima's words: "It's more about people's shared passion for watches than the watches themselves."

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About Fondation Haute Horlogerie

Founded in 2005 by Audemars Piguet, Girard-Perregaux and the Richemont Group, the Fondation Haute Horlogerie (FHH) has since focused its mission on the international influence of watchmaking culture and positions the watch as an object of art and culture. The Fondation Haute Horlogerie (FHH) serves as a neutral reference in watchmaking, supported by three pillars. "Watches and Culture" brings watchmaking culture to life through original content, events, and international meetings for both the public and professionals. The "FHH Academy" offers training and certification for current professionals and future enthusiasts, with courses available in over 20 countries, both in-person and online. The "FHH Forum" is an industry-driven platform for discussion and debate, connecting leaders to shape the future of watchmaking. Around forty watch brands actively support FHH's mission to preserve and promote watchmaking culture and heritage.