

# M I K I

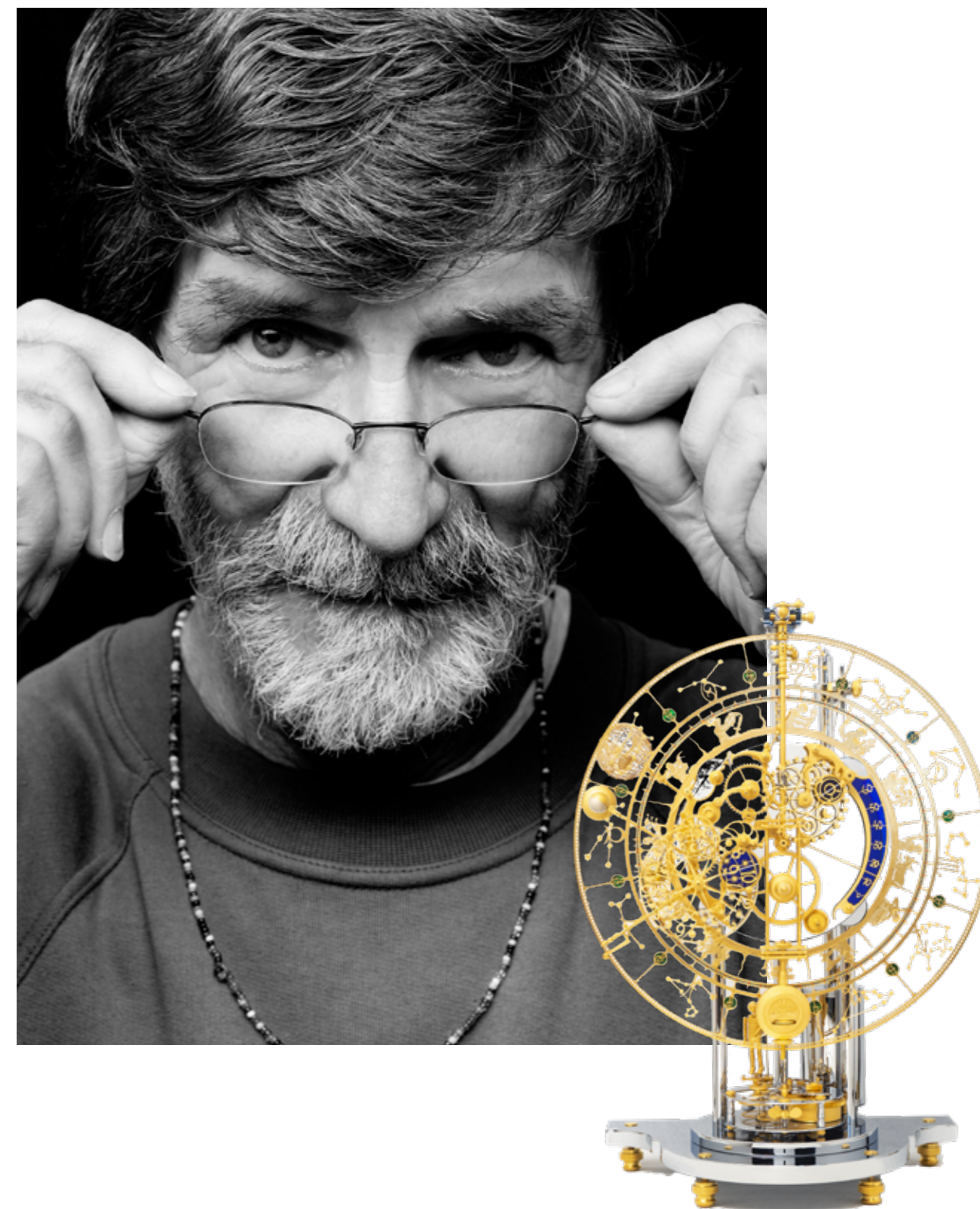
## AS TIME GOES BY

Samouki urar Miki Eleta jedan je od 35 članova Horološke akademije nezavisnih urara čija unikatna mehanička i umjetnička remek-djela nastaju dubokom fascinacijom za mjerenjem vremena, inovacijom i kinetičkom umjetnošću

*Self-taught clockmaker Miki Eleta is a member of the Horological Academy of Independent Creators and his unique mechanical and artistic masterpieces are a result of his deep fascination with timekeeping, innovation and kinetic art*

# E L E T A

TEXT: Hrvoje Bulešić PHOTOS: M.A.D. Gallery



remda intervju radimo Skypeom udaljeni stotinama kilometara od njegove radionice u Zürichu, gotovo da možemo osjetiti čudotvornu energiju kojom Miki Eleta zrači. Energiju u koju se lako zaljubiti. Unatoč tome što izrađuje neke od najfascinantnijih satova na svijetu za probranu klijentelu, Miki Eleta je dokaz kako su genijalni ljudi topli i jednostavni. U ovom slučaju još i obožavani širokom slavenskom dušom i finim bosanskim smislom za humor.

Samouki urar Miki Eleta, jedan je od 35 članova Horološke akademije nezavisnih urara (ACHI), artisan, kreator, tragač za harmonijom, sanjar, umjetnik koji je u 20 godina stvaralaštva napravio četrdesetak mehaničkih naprava i satova. Doduše, nazivati njegove kreacije satovima zvuči malo podcjenjivački jer riječ je o mehaničkim i umjetničkim remek-djelima, ručno radenima po narudžbi, koja krase palače diljem svijeta, pa čak i salon jedne jahte (Nobiskrug Artefact op.a.). Neki od satova imaju mehanizme za sviranje nota, čiji se slijed ne ponavlja nekoliko stotina godina, dok drugi poput Svemira imaju dva astronomska modela: geocentrizam i heliocentrizam.

*Even though this is a Skype interview and we're hundreds of miles away from his Zurich workshop, we can almost feel Miki Eleta's miraculous energy – an energy that's easy to fall in love with. Despite making some of the most fascinating clocks in the world for select clientele, Miki Eleta is living proof that brilliant people are warm and simple, in this case full of Slavic soul and a Bosnian sense of humour.*

*Self-taught clockmaker Miki Eleta is a member of the Horological Academy of Independent Creators (ACHI), artisan, creator, harmony seeker, dreamer, an artist who made around 40 mechanical gadgets and clocks in his 20 years of creativity. Calling his creations simply clocks can seem a bit unfair because they are true mechanical and artistic masterpieces, made to order, adorning palaces around the globe, and even a salon on a yacht (Nobiskrug Artefact). Some of his clocks feature mechanisms for playing a melody that won't repeat for one hundred years, while others, such as Svemir, combine two astronomical models: geo and heliocentrism.*



## LJUBAV PREMA MEHANICI RAZVILI STE KAO TINEJDŽER VOZEĆI SE VLAKOVIMA S OCEM KOJI JE BIO STROJOVOĐA.

Često sam ocu pravio društvu na liniji Sarajevo - Višegrad - Titovo Užice, a posebno pamtim jedan događaj iz djetinjstva zbog kojeg sam zavolio vlakove i uvijek se naježim kada ga pričam. Riječ je pruzi koja prolazi Šargan planinom, tzv. Šarganskoj osmici prepunoj tunela i mostova na kojoj možete osjetiti divljinu prirode i moć planine. Dok smo se vozili tim veličanstvenim perivojem, upitao sam oca mogu li ja malo voziti vlak. Bio sam strojovođa 15 minuta i upravljao tom silnom mašinom koja se probijala kroz surovi krajolik. Ta sjećanja na zvuk željezničkih šina, prepoznatljiv fičuk vlaka, silinu stroja koji vijuga između kamenih gromada nikada nisam zaboravio. I danas kada vidim parnu lokomotivu, poželim se popeti, povući poluge i negdje otputovati. Kao u avanturama Jacka Londona.

## ROĐEN U ANDRIĆEVOM VIŠEGRADU, MIKI ELETA U ŠVICARSKU JE STIGAO 1973. KAKO BI OSTVARIO JEDAN SAN – KUPNJU FLAMENCO GITARE.

‘Opet se moram vratiti u prošlost. Kada sam imao šest godina čuo sam flamenco na radiju. Taj zvuk, ta emocija, ta ljubav koja je strujala kroz gitarske žice potpuno me opčinila. Kako je moja sestra radila u Švicarskoj, zamolio sam je da mi pošalje nešto novca kako bih kupio solidnu gitaru, a ona mi je odgovorila: ‘Zašto ne dođeš ovdje i zaradiš za gitaru?’ Bila je to sjajna ideja. Nakon što sam nekoliko mjeseci u Višegradu učio njemački, dobio sam posao kao bolnički tehničar i od prve plaće kupio gitaru. Tako da mogu reći kako mi je gitara bila veliki putokaz u životu. Flamenco sam kao i sve ostale stvari u životu naučio autodidaktički, nije bilo nikoga da mi to pokaže, a kasnije sam u Sevilli išao u školu gitare kod andaluzijskih Roma. Ta glazba koja izlazi iz njihovih prstiju je božje djelo.’

## ODAKLE LJUBAV PREMA SATOVIMA?

Kada pogledam svoj unatrag, za moj su život bili jako bitni detalji. Vlak, gitara i kinetička umjetnost. U Švicarskoj sam radio svakakve poslove od nogometnog trenera do muzičara, a negdje 1996. jedan me prijatelj zamolio da mu za njegovu tvrtku napravim tzv. muster ploču na kojoj bi klijentima pokazivao što je zlato, srebro, titanij... Predložio sam mu da napravimo mašinu koja će to pokazivati i tako je nastala moja kinetička umjetnost. Bila je vrlo uspješna. Do 2000. sam napravio više od 80 takvih kreacija, a potom me prema satovima također ‘gurnuo’ jedan detalj. Na izložbi na kojoj sam izlagao kreaciju nazvanu Kaos prišao mi je mladić kojeg nikada poslije nisam vidio i zamolio me da mu pojasnim kako stvar funkcionira. Nakon mog pojašnjenja, samo mi je kratko rekao: ‘Vi ne možete raditi točne i precizne stvari. Zato je taj kaos’. Ja sam mu odgovorio: ‘Vi očigledno niste razumjeli moje izlaganje, ali dođite iduće godine na izložbu, a ja ću napraviti jedan sat kao dokaz da znam precizno raditi’. I tako sam u svojoj 50. godini odlučio raditi satove. Počeo sam obilaziti urare i učiti... Pritom sam izabrao put koji je tipičan za mene. Unikate za koje mi treba između šest i deset mjeseci rada. Treba biti hrabar i drukčiji, Bosanci bi rekli, moraš malo biti ‘skrenut’. Znao sam odbijati bogate ponude da radim nekoliko istih satova, ali meni novac ne znači previše. U Višegradu ga nisam imao, a ovdje u Švicarskoj ga imam dovoljno lijep život i za svoje alate koji moraju biti prvoklasni. Više od novca veseli me svaka nova ideja u mojoj radionici. Kada od komada mesinga počnem stvarati, zupčanik po zupčanik, novi sat. To je poput putovanja parnom lokomotivom, uživate u njemu, bez žurbe da se stigne na cilj...

Miki Eleta izbjegava računala, umjesto toga ručno dizajnira satove koristeći vlastite nacрте i skice na papiru. Nikada nije imao automobil, a u radionici ne posjeduje nijedan stroj jer svaki zupčanik reže sam. Cijeli sat nosi njegovu emociju i potpis, a svaki dovršeni komad savršeno sjeda u mozaik priče. U pitanju je urarski romantičar čije su kreacije nastale iz ljubavi.

‘Svijet satova je fascinantan i beskonačan. Ljudi mjere vrijeme već tisućama godina. Pogledajte samo antički mehanizam iz Antikitere. Horologija je izrazito kreativno i plodno područje. Ne mogu to pojasniti riječima, ali kada počnem razmišljati o satovima, mojim idejama nema kraja. Riječ je umjetničkom zanosu koji me potpuno ponese kad stvaram. Pritom ja ne znam što je vrijeme, vjerujem da to nitko ne može objasniti sa stopostotnom sigurnošću. Ono što mi zovemo vremenom je naš ljudski dogovor kako dan traje 24 sata. Jedino što znam kako je život jako kratak i treba ga što bolje iskoristiti. Što smo stariji i mudriji, to više cijenimo svaku minutu vremena koja nam je dana.’

## YOUR LOVE OF MECHANICS DEVELOPED WHILE YOU ACCOMPANIED YOUR FATHER WHO WORKED AS A TRAIN DRIVER.

*I often joined my father on the Sarajevo - Višegrad - Titovo Užice route. I distinctly remember one event that made me fall in love with trains and I always get goosebumps when I tell it. There's a railway line that crosses Šargan Mountain, the so-called Šargan eight, full of tunnels and bridges, where you can feel the wildness of nature and the power of the mountains. While we were passing this magnificent route, I asked my father if I could drive the train for a while. I was a train driver for 15 minutes and operated that huge machine that pushed its way through the rugged terrain. The sound of railway lines, the memorable noise of the train, the immense power of the machine winding its way through mountains is something I never forgot. Even now, when I see a steam engine, I want to climb up, pull the lever and travel somewhere. Just like Jack London's adventures.*

## BORN IN VIŠEGRAD, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MIKI ELETA MOVED TO SWITZERLAND TO FULFIL A DREAM – BUY A FLAMENCO GUITAR.

*'I have to go back to the past. When I was six, I heard flamenco playing on the radio. I was mesmerized by the sound, the emotion and the love flowing through the wires. As my sister was working in Switzerland, I asked her to send me some money so I could buy a decent guitar, and she asked: 'Why don't you come here to earn money and buy yourself a guitar?' It was an excellent idea. After learning German in Višegrad for a few months, I got a job as a medical technician and bought a guitar from my first pay check. So, I can say that the guitar guided me in life. Like everything else in my life, I learned the Flamenco autodidactically, there was no one to teach me. Later on, I was taught by Andalusian Roma people in Seville. The music their fingers produce is God's work.'*

## WHEN DID YOUR LOVE OF CLOCKS START?

*When I look back at my life, it's all about details. The train, the guitar and kinetic art. I worked all kinds of jobs in Switzerland - from football coach to musician and in 1996 a friend asked me to make a so-called muster board to demonstrate his clients gold, silver, titanium... I told him I would make a machine to demonstrate it and that's when my kinetic art was created. It was a huge success. By 2000 I had made more than 80 pieces and then one detail directed me towards clocks. One time my creation called Chaos was on display at an exhibition and a young man I never saw again after that asked me to explain to him how the thing worked. After my explanation, he just replied: 'You can't make precise things. That's why this one is chaos.' I replied: 'You evidently didn't understand my elaboration, but come back next year and I'll make a clock to show that I can make precise things.' And so, I decided to make clocks when I turned 50. I started visiting clockmakers and learning... Choosing a path that is very typical of me. My unique timepieces take six to ten months to make. You need to be bold and different, as people in Bosnia would say, you have to be a bit 'cuckoo'. I sometimes refused a lot of money to make a few clocks that are identical, but money doesn't matter much to me anyway. I didn't have any in Višegrad, and here in Switzerland I have enough for a decent life and for my tools, which have to be top tier. Each new idea at my workshop brings me much more joy than money. When I take a piece of brass and start making a new clock, one gear train at a time - it's like a steam engine journey, you enjoy it and you're in no rush to get anywhere.*

*Miki Eleta avoids computers and designs clocks by hand instead, using his own designs and sketches made on paper. He has never owned a car and there are no machines in his workshop because he cuts each gear train himself. The clocks carry his emotion and signature and each new timepiece he finishes fits the mosaic of the story perfectly. He's a clockmaking romantic and his creations are a labour of love.*

*'The world of clocks is fascinating and endless. People have been measuring time for millennia. Just look at the ancient Antikythera mechanism. Horology is an extremely creative and productive field. I can't put it in words, but once I start thinking about clocks, my ideas never stop. It's an artistic fervour that I'm completely overcome with when I create things. Bear in mind that I don't know what time is, I don't believe anyone can explain it with 100% certainty. What we call time is our human agreement that a day is 24 hours. The only thing I know is that life is very short and we have to use it as best we can. The older and wiser we get, the more we appreciate every minute of time we were given.'*



CONTINUUM MOBILE



DIE SIEBEN



LA LUNA



HIPPOCAMPUS 2012



‘Što smo stariji i mudriji, to više cijenimo svaku minutu vremena koja nam je dana’  
*Age brings wisdom, and awareness of the value of every minute of life we have to enjoy’*