



Montblanc

MEISTERSTÜCK BLUE HOUR

What is your favourite time of day? Perhaps it is the balmy moment when the sun hits its zenith, or perhaps it's when she begins to fall gracefully from view, splashing the sky with vermillion hues. As the last star fades into the heavens, and just before the sun begins her slow rise from east, bringing with her the warm, subtle shades of tangerine, peach, lilac and gold, you might just be lucky enough to catch the blue hour. If you miss it just before dawn, you have the opportunity once more at dusk, that mystical moment each day, when the deepest, fiercest of blues floods the sky and seems to suspend time momentarily, staving off the impending darkness.



Photos: © Montblanc



The Deep Blue Muse

The blue hour is a fleeting, bewitching interlude, when the city lights begin their merry dance with the deep blue sky, a time that has been the muse for many artists, photographers and writers over the centuries.

The Skagen Painters were well known for their love of painting in the blue hour. Each summer, from the late 1870s, the close-knit group of mainly Danish artists would gather in the small fishing village, painting local fishing scenes and their own gatherings. They chose Skagen for its quality of light, choosing to paint 'en plein air', like the French Impressionists. P.S. Krøyer, was one of the best-known of the painters from this creative group, and his paintings often made it seem as though the water and the sky merged. This is captured in one of his most famous paintings, 'Summer Evening at Skagen Beach – The Artist and his Wife' (1899). Georgia O'Keefe also captured the spirit of the blue hour in paintings such as 'Ladder to the Moon' and 'New York Street with Moon.'

Michael Freeman, author of *Capturing Light: The Heart of Photography* said, "In almost all photography it's the quality of light that makes or breaks the shot. For professional photographers, chasing the light, waiting for it, sometimes helping it, and finally capturing it is a constant preoccupation — and for some an obsession." Many photographers will speak about the golden hours — those moments immediately after sunrise and just before sunset — when the iridescent light is spectacular, and creates a high-contrast photo bathed in golden light. But it is the blue hour that creates a truly surreal environment with natural light, overcasting blue and purple hues across your chosen scene."

The carefully chosen words of writers paint vivid pictures in our minds, of the sun's journey into night, and back again, to day. In 'She,' H. Rider Haggard described the blue hour before dawn, "The moon went slowly down in loveliness; she departed into the depth of the horizon, and long veil-like shadows crept up the sky through which the stars appeared. Soon, however, they too began to pale before a splendour in the east, and the advent of the dawn declared itself in the newborn blue of heaven."

In Ludmila, Paul Gallico, speaks of the coming of dusk, "The setting sun had turned the blue sky a brilliant orange, then soft pink merging to pearl; the plum velvet of night had come out of the east, spangled with stars."

"The pale stars were sliding into their places. The whispering of the leaves was almost hushed. All about them it was still and shadowy and sweet. It was that wonderful moment when, for lack of a visible horizon, the not yet darkened world seems infinitely greater — a moment when anything can happen, anything be believed in." Olivia Howard Dunbar, The Shell of Sense



Capturing the Essence of Blue

The blue hour is particularly beguiling in the cities, where twinkling lamplight interplays mysteriously with the deep blue horizon and the ever-encroaching darkness. It is the magic of this special moment that inspired the artistic designers at Montblanc, to create the Meisterstück Blue Hour, a collection of writing instrument inspired by the captivating blue light.

The design of the Meisterstück Blue Hour Doué Classique brings the fascinating mood of the blue hour to life. The instrument's barrel is engraved with a hexagon pattern coated with blue lacquer to mirror the subtle refractions of early evening traffic, while the platinum-plated cap inlaid with the Montblanc emblem echoes the silver tones that dominate every city skyline as the day reluctantly moves into night.

Like the blue light that engulfs cities with surreal splendour, both the cap and barrel of the Meisterstück Blue Hour Solitaire LeGrand feature the blue hexagon pattern that reflects nocturnal city life with its traffic, skyscrapers and atmospheric skies. The platinum-plated fittings contrast with the blue, like refractions of metallic urban light against the deep blue backdrop. Both Blue Hour Doué Classique and Blue Hour Solitaire LeGrand are available in Rollerball, Ballpoint and a Fountain Pen with a handcrafted rhodium-plated Au750 (18 carat) gold nib embellished with a special design and featuring a piston converter to allow use of cartridges or ink. The Blue Hour Skeleton 149 Fountain Pen emphasises the beauty of the blue hour in the city with its gradients of twilight blues, bright streetlights and scintillating buildings. Through the delicately skeletonised and platinum-plated cap and barrel with its camouflage pattern, a bluish light playfully emerges to create the early evening atmosphere, while the platinum-plated fittings and the Montblanc emblem in quartz enhance the reflection of the white light.

The blue theme is carried from the design of the writing instruments to the ink specially developed to accompany the collection. The Meisterstück Twilight Blue, available in an Ink Glass Well as well as cartridges, will leave a lasting trace of this special urban moment on paper, long after the city lights have disappeared and the night has set in. The Montblanc Meisterstück Blue Hour is available from Montblanc boutiques worldwide from June, 2015. ■ Lindsay Grubb



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Montblanc Heritage Spirit Moonphase and Hugh Jackman

Crafted for New Heights

The new Montblanc Heritage Spirit Moonphase features the moonphase complication in the spirit of traditional fine watchmaking. Housed in a 39 mm 18 K red gold case, the self-winding Calibre MB 29.14 indicates the moonphase in a crescent-shaped aperture, making this refined timepiece a true lifetime companion. Visit Montblanc.com



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