

1 ARTIST/MAKER: Nuno Beijinho  
 YEAR: ca. 2024  
 DIMENSIONS: 7.48 × 6.3 × 3.54" (19 × 16 × 9 cm), 0.38 kg (0.84lbs)  
 ORIGINAL PRICE: \$4,000  
 ESTIMATE: \$25,000–30,000  
 ACQUISITION: Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
 TITLE: Swan ashtray  
 MEDIUM: Glass  
 PROVENANCE: Lisa Lagova

2 ARTIST/MAKER: Felix Salmander Kammerer, Emil Salmander Kammerer  
 TITLE: Perfect Lover  
 MEDIUM: Alarm clocks (Braun Travel Alarm BC05)  
 YEAR: 1987–1990  
 DIMENSIONS: 3 × 2.8 × 1.5" (7.8 × 7.2 × 3.8 cm)  
 ORIGINAL PRICE: N/A  
 ESTIMATE: \$44,100–52,920  
 ACQUISITION: Nisselgasse 5, 1140 Vienna, Austria  
 PROVENANCE: Lacerta Foundation

Paul Kammerer (1880–1926) was an Austrian biologist who studied and advocated for Lamarckism, the theory that organisms may pass to their offspring characteristics acquired in their lifetime. Kammerer's other passion was collecting coincidences. He postulated that all events are connected by waves of seriality. The unknown forces would cause what is perceived as just the peaks, or groupings and coincidences.

In 1907, Kammerer married Baroness Felicitas Maria Theodora von Wiedersperg. That same year, their daughter was born and named Lacerta Kammerer (lacerta meaning lizard in Latin). The Lacerta Foundation would later be named after her.

In 1919, he published the book *Das Gesetz der Serie* [*The Law of Seriality*], in which he recounted some 100 anecdotes of coincidences that had led him to formulate his theory of seriality. Arthur Koestler reported that when he was doing research for his biography on Kammerer, he was subjected to "a meteor shower" of coincidences, as if Kammerer's ghost was grinning down at him and saying, "I told you so!"

After Paul's death in 1926, his notebooks, filled with newspaper clippings and records of coincidences (for example, he made notes in public parks of how many people passed by and how many carried umbrellas), were preserved by his daughter Lacerta, who maintained many of his habits.

In 1938, on an otherwise ordinary morning, Lacerta came across peculiar news:

"Miscellany, Oct. 17, 1938

In Detroit, a year ago, Street Sweeper Joseph Figlock was furbishing up an alley when a baby plopped down from a fourth-story window, struck him on the head and shoulders, injured Joseph Figlock and himself but was not killed. Last fortnight, as Joseph Figlock was sweeping out another alley, two-year-old David Thomas fell from a fourth-story window, landed on ubiquitous Mr. Figlock with the same result."

That same year, Lacerta gave birth to twin boys: Felix Salmander Kammerer and Emil Salmander Kammerer. One became a pilot, the other a foreign correspondent. Though their paths were different, both careers required constant travel.

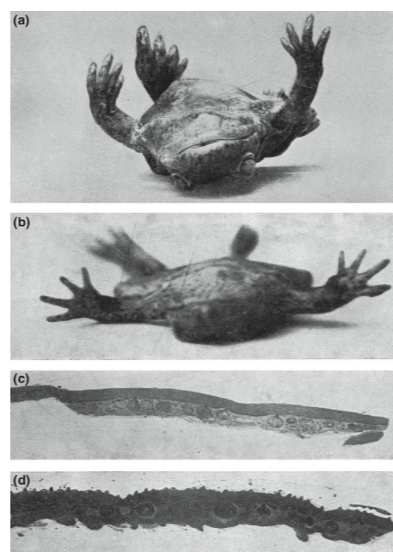
In 1971, Braun released its first travel alarm clock, designed by Dieter Rams and Dietrich Lubs. With a minimalist black square shape, a foldable protective cover that doubled as a stand, a signature yellow second hand (which would go on to become an icon of Braun design), and a quartz movement (later improved). Lacerta bought two of them, one for each son.

After Lacerta's passing in 1987, Felix Salmander Kammerer donated his clock along with Paul and Lacerta Kammerer's original notebook to the Lacerta Foundation. Three years later, Emil Salmander Kammerer donated the other clock.

In 2001, during a specimen and artifact auction in Vienna focused on historical biological studies, Dutch collector Holly van Houten purchased a specimen of Paul Kammerer's *Experiments on the Midwife Toad* (1905–1910). After the event, she noticed the twin clocks in the foundation's office. They weren't part of the auction, but after hearing the full story of the Kammerer family across generations, Van Houten offered a high price to acquire them. She later kept the clocks in her apartment in Vienna.

Now, one clock's gears are broken, its hands damaged, each second lasts only half as long. The other clock remains in perfect working order.

THE LAST SPECIMEN OF THE MIDWIFE TOAD, NOTED FOR ITS FAMOUS RUTTING WEALS, WAS AUCTIONED BY THE LACERTA FOUNDATION IN VIENNA IN 2001.



3 ARTIST/MAKER: Gatsby  
 MEDIUM: Cardboard, blotting paper  
 ESTIMATE: \$150–180  
 TITLE: BB Keep & Oil Control paper  
 DIMENSIONS: 4 × 2.25 × 0.25" (10.2 × 5.5 × 0.7 cm)  
 YEAR: 2011  
 ORIGINAL PRICE: \$3  
 PROVENANCE: Michael Straus  
 ACQUISITION: Beachwood Canyon, Los Angeles, USA

