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Art Of The Classic Car



Synopsis

The rarity and historical significance of prewar classic and antique cars make them hot commodities on the collector car market. These are the automobiles that populate the fairways and manicured lawns of the world's greatest car shows in alluring locales like Pebble Beach, California, and Amelia Island, Florida. These are the cars that bring a hush to the hall when they roll across the blocks at auctions around the world. These are the cars that fill the world's greatest collections, like those of Ralph Lauren, Mark Knopfler, and various members of royal families. These are the cars from history's premiere automakers: hallowed names like Packard, Duesenberg, Stutz, Bugatti, Mercedes-Benz, Cord, and others—six-figure and million-dollar machines that thrill Barrett-Jackson audiences and drive bidders to frenzy. *Art of the Classic Car* features the stunning studio photography of Peter Harholdt (*Art of the Hot Rod*, *Art of the Muscle Car*), lavished on the most significant automobiles from the classic era: the 1910s to early 1940s. Every page contains frangible-quality portraits of some of the most important cars ever made, with each car accompanied by a short essay from automotive expert Peter Bodensteiner that places the model contextually within automotive history. Complete with period ads and promotional art, *Art of the Classic Car* is the most beautiful pictorial history of classic cars ever produced.

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Customer Reviews

"Peter Harholdt has beautifully shot each car—a glossy mini-concours"—AutoWeekFor folks who enjoy the automobile as art, here is another sumptuous coffee-table book from Motorbooks.

Photographer Harholdt (*The Allure of the Automobile: Driving in Style, 1930-1965*) gives classic cars the full treatment, with an oversize spread shot of each automobile and smaller photos of the engine, the interior and upholstery, and any other attractive parts, such as the hood ornaments. The classic cars included range from a 1911 Mercer 351L Runabout to the 1941 Chrysler Town & Country, with the rest of the cars from the 1920s and 1930s. Duesenbergs, Delahayes, and other rare vehicles only seen in museums or at prestigious car shows star on these pages. There is minimal text by Bodensteiner (founder, Stance & Speed Pub.), just enough to identify the car, a few specifications, and sometimes a tidbit of interest—the book explains that the 1934 Packard Twelve Runabout Speedster photographed here was a gift from actress Carole Lombard to her husband Clark Gable. VERDICT The images have such a luxurious feel that the reader almost suffers guilt just paging through the volume. Lovers of classics cars will want to have this in their collection, and libraries will find this a worthy addition to collections on automotive history and design. - Library Journal

Prewar classic and antique cars are blue-chip vehicles in the collector car world. In addition to their historical significance, the surviving examples are relatively rare, which drives their value, desirability, and interest among car enthusiasts. These are the automobiles that populate the fairways and manicured lawns of the world's great car shows in exotic locales like Pebble Beach, California, and Goodwood, England. These are the cars that bring a hush to the hall when they roll across the blocks at auctions around the world. These are the cars that fill the world's greatest collections, like those of Ralph Lauren, Jay Leno, and members of various royal families. In *Art of the Classic Car*, noted studio photographer Peter Harholdt lavishes his prodigious talent on the most significant automobiles from the antique and classic eras—the 1910s to early 1940s. Every page contains stunning portraits of some of the most important cars ever made. Each car is accompanied by a short essay written by automotive expert Peter Bodensteiner, expounding the virtues of each car and placing it contextually in automotive history.

If the "Olympian" cars of the 1925-40 period are your thing, then grab this volume. It is chiefly made up of photos—lovely color renderings of classic cars, sometimes in profile, sometimes focusing on a specific part of the automobile. These cars were hugely expensive when they were new—and the survivors depicted here are even more so now. The photos take you to a different time, sadly in many cases to the depths of the Depression when few could even think about driving such a car. And compared to the automatic shifts, power steering, disc brakes, air conditioning and steel-belted

radial tires we take for granted, they drive like trucks. But who cares? This is all about taking in the coach built glory of handmade cars designed for the 1% of their time. All are museum pieces now, luckily some on public display. But you need not travel anywhere (some of the best collections open to the public are in California, no surprise) . . . just wallow in this fabulous collection of photos.

I can't imagine anyone being disappointed in this lavish volume of automotive art. The choice of vehicles photographed and the detail and composition of these images is outstanding. I also appreciated the large format of the book (page size being 12 x 10.5 inches).

Works of arts. Recently started drawing some vintage car pen and ink illustrations. This book is awesome. The photography is top shelf and the cars themselves are mind blowing examples...if you love beautiful industrial design..you'll love this book. Bought a very good used copy for less than 9.00 bucks.

Beautifully crafted book - great photography - the selected automobiles are truly gems of the automotive world. Misses on some great Auburn, Cords, Dusenbergs and many others marquees that make the classic car world go around... worth a look

Lots of excellent pictures of the old classics with accompanying stories, not just statistics. Get a look under the hood and view the dashboard!

perfect

Outstanding sculpted steel!

Wonderful book. Great pictures. Interesting facts.

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