



Corinne Abatt editor/644-1100

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On a roll

The car shifts from functional to fine art

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

IT SEEMS NATURAL that an exhibition of paintings with the automobile as the theme should be a part of the sixth annual Concours d'Elegance to be held Sunday at Meadow Brook Hall.

In this event, literally a competition of elegance, the 160 cars featured represent the epitome of automotive design — international beauties which embodied as many dreams and aspirations as they did moving parts.

The competition is based on design and quality, not necessarily performance. The cars will be on exhibit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are 11 car classes beginning with antiques through 1915 and continuing through vintage American classics, European classics, classic and contemporary sports cars to the featured Chryslers, which will occupy this year's spotlight.

Chrysler chairman Lee A. Iacocca and Group Promotions Inc. president, Robert E. Larivee, Sr. are Concours co-chairmen.

The art show, organized by Tom Hale of Farmington Hills who designed this year's Concours poster and program cover, brings a dozen of the country's top artists who use the automobile as a subject for fine art together.

The five from Michigan including Hale are Glen Abbott of Ann Arbor, Jack Juratovic of Lake Orion, John Krieger of Plymouth and John McCormick of Linden.

All but McCormick, associate professor of art at Delta College, have been or still are involved in automobile styling for the major companies.

But, their appreciation of the automobile, in all instances, goes far beyond technical. Their works are portraits of an element of our society, so deeply ingrained that it has become an extension of the human psyche.

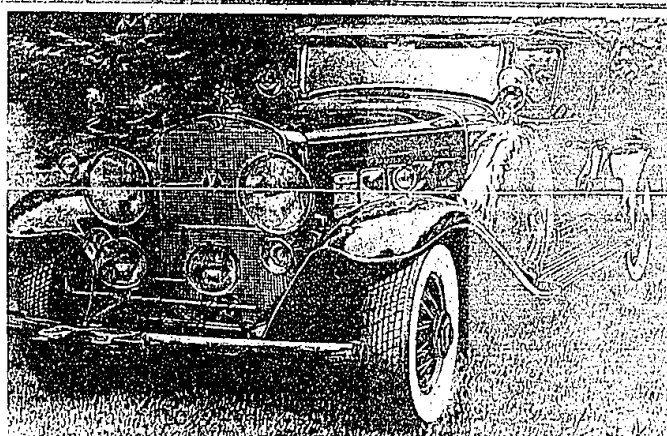
And each of the artists strives to stir the emotions of the viewer — to think, to dream, to remember, to smile and even to regret.

The other seven artists in the show are: Dennis Brown, Covina, Calif.; Ken Eberts, Temecula, Calif.; Phyllis Krin, New York City; David Lord, Indianapolis; Bill Motta, Newport Beach, Calif.; Bob Rector, Laguna Beach, Calif.; and Stanley Wanless, Astoria, Ore.

Hale said each artist agreed to be present for this one day show, so the commitment (particularly for the West Coast artists) is substantial. The \$7,000 in purchase awards, the \$1,500 in cash awards, plus the prestige of the show and the people who will see the art is, of course, enticing.

Each artist is contributing one original work for an auction to be held before a dinner party Saturday. Hale's original framed painting (34 by 48 inches) from which the poster was made, will be in the auction.

Proceeds from the auction as well as from the Concours d'Elegance itself, go toward the preservation and maintenance of Meadow Brook Hall. Admission charge.

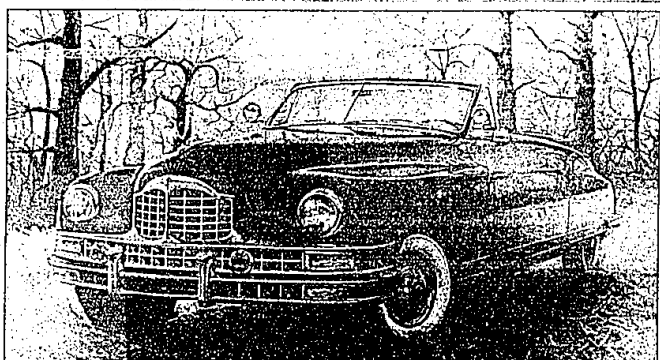


John McCormick



John William McCormick of Linden, assistant professor of art at Delta College and full-time artist, is a consistent prize winner in regional shows. He said he's trying to go "more abstract" — to move beyond the photo image. He particularly likes to paint (in

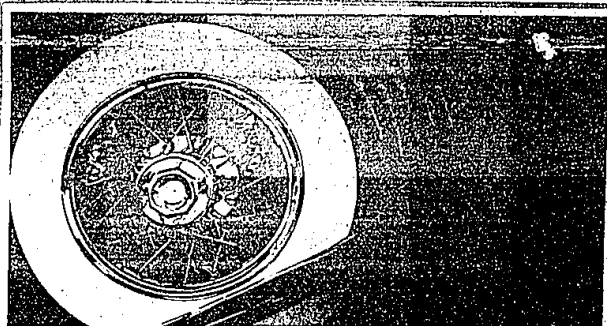
acrylics) the cars of the '30s and '40s because he likes the feelings of nostalgia they evoke. McCormick worked on the assembly lines while going to college. He has a bachelor's and master's of fine arts from Michigan State.



CAMILLE MOODY/HART photographer

John Krieger

John Krieger of Plymouth, product of Center for Creative Studies in Industrial Design, left a career in automotive styling five years ago to pursue fine art fulltime. Since then, he has been in many national and regional exhibitions. He labels his watercolors and acrylics "more impressionist than photo-realistic" and says he tries to show the paint strokes. He likes to portray "nature's timeless forces and man's interactions" through common images such as roads, bridges and cars. Notice the optical illusion in this painting with the reflection of the woods in the car's surface.



Glen Abbot

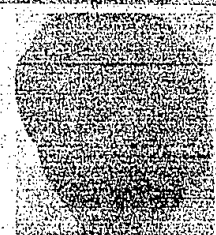
Glen Abbot of Ann Arbor came to Detroit from West Chester, Pa., to study industrial design at what was then Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. He worked at the Ford Motor Co. Design Center and is designing for American Motors. In his fine art work, he combines elements of photography,

drawing and painting. "Duesenberg M," 22 by 33 inches is one of several works he will have in the Concours show. He said he chooses subjects that "mean something to more people than me." He has done a Formula One series as well as one on Duesenbergs.



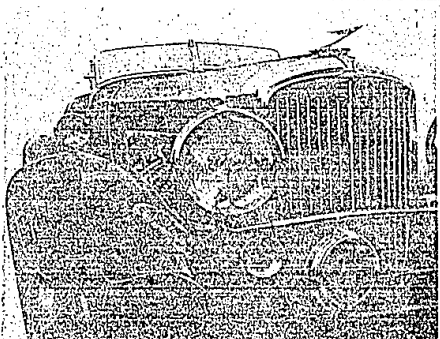
John Juratovic

John Juratovic of Lake Orion, born in Pittsburgh, graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art in industrial design. He designed for Ford and Chrysler before founding DORT Inc. in 1970. Juratovic has influenced with some of the contemporary classics such as the Ford Mustang Cobra II, the Chevrolet Monte Carlo and the Phillips Motors Berlinetta Coupe. A former SCCA racer, he also races for vintage racing. With a touch of fantasy, he said he likes to put himself back in time when he paints — "pretend I'm a stylist designing these old classic cars."



Tom Hale

Tom Hale of Farmington Hills, graduate of the Art Center of Design in Los Angeles, continues to balance two careers: designer for American Motors and fine art painter. The automobile as a subject gives him an opportunity to explore color, reflectivity and quality of electrical patterns.



DAVID FRANK/HART photographer

What happens on these reflective surfaces in terms of light, color and pattern intrigues Hale. There was a major show of his paintings at Meadow Brook Art Gallery last year, and he won the gold medal of honor at the American Watercolor Society in New York in 1983.