

# Arts & Leisure



Majestic drive: Barry Rowe's "Bossava Cottage" is among the artworks on exhibit at Concours d'Elegance.

## Tom Hale: inventor of a new genre of automobile expression

When Tom Hale was employed as a stylist for American Motors, his job was to create the look of a future product, a.k.a. cars, Jeeps, trucks. There wasn't a computer program to approximate the design. Hale of Farmington Hills drew sketches, developed a concept, then worked on a clay model of the vehicle. Back then, the future was invented slowly.

But faster than you can say "American Motors was swallowed by Chrysler which merged with Daimler-Benz," Hale transformed his interpretations from a drawing board onto a canvass.

Today, Hale is a full-time artist. In less than 20 years, he's become one of the top artists in the world analyzing automobiles for more than gas mileage and engineering proficiency. Quite simply, Hale is at the artistic vanguard creating an emerging genre inspired by what he calls "America's greatest invention."

Hale's swirling, organic interpretations of inorganic automobiles will be displayed this upcoming weekend along with 15 other international artists at the 20th annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance Invitational Art Exhibit.

**WHAT:** Invitational Art Show featuring 16 international automobile artists in conjunction with the 20th annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance  
**WHEN:** Art auction - immediately following Concours d'Elegance Banquet at Meadow Brook Hall, 6 p.m. Saturday, August 1. Art exhibit - 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday, August 2.  
**WHERE:** Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester  
**NOTES:** Selections from the Invitational Art Show are on exhibit at Somerset Collection in Troy and the Chrysler Tech Center in Auburn Hills through July 30.

### Waxing nostalgic

In the days before the invitational exhibit, however, Hale is exasperated.

Over the past month, he's been in art shows in Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Cleveland and witnessed the resplendent heat of the flesh-and-bone logjam known as the Ann Arbor Art Fair.

Despite the travel lag and a mid-summer cold, Hale's enthusiasm rises like a tidal wave from a placid pond when talking about his favorite subject - automobiles.

He readily recalls the details of waxing his first car, a 1950 army green Plymouth.

"People forget about how incredible it is that you can get into your car and go anywhere in this country. There's something magical about that."

"Automobiles represent a great sense of freedom." Paying homage to automobiles isn't simply admiring the synthesis of design and utility.

For Hale, it's a testament to what distinguishes the American spirit for adventure and independence.

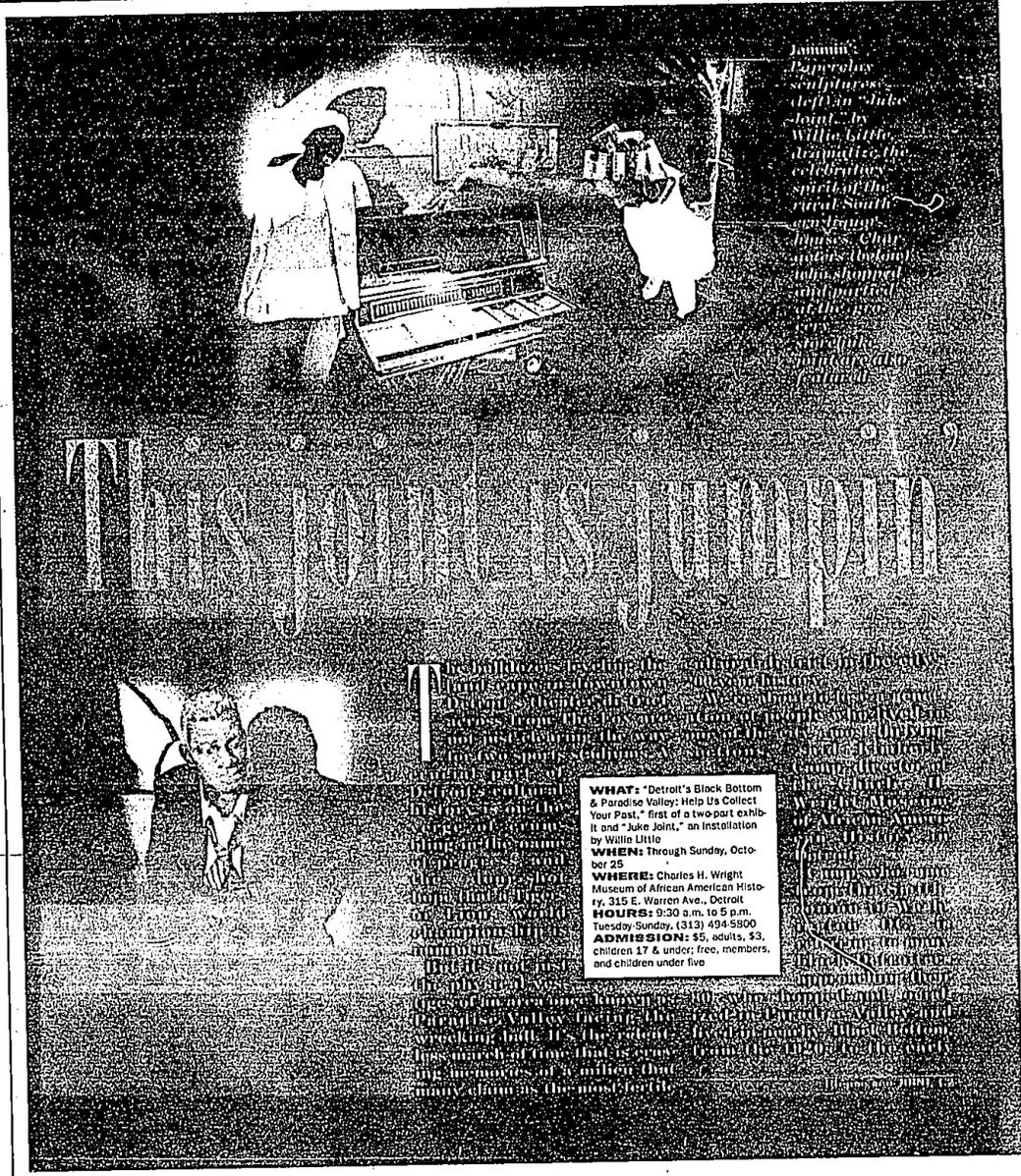
### A love affair

In 1982, after the Concours d'Elegance had been attracting crowds to its exhibit of classic cars for four years, then-chair Dick Teague persuaded Hale to put together the first Invitational Art Exhibit.

He invited a dozen artists, each with a distinctive style. Unlike an assembly line, Hale's goal was to assemble artists with no areas of duplication.

By the mid 1980s, Hale organized many of the artist who participated in the Concours d'Elegance Invitational Art Exhibition at the Automotive Art Society of America.

Today, the Concours d'Elegance



Jammin' Barry Rowe's sculpture "Bossava Cottage" depicts a "Juke Joint" by Willie Little, dramatize the celebratory spirit of the rural South. (Left) Tom Hale's drawing "Bossava Cottage" depicts a "Juke Joint" by Willie Little, dramatize the celebratory spirit of the rural South.

**WHAT:** "Detroit's Black Bottom & Paradise Valley: Help Us Collect Your Past," first of a two-part exhibit and "Juke Joint," an installation by Willie Little  
**WHEN:** Through Sunday, October 25  
**WHERE:** Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit  
**HOURS:** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, (313) 494-5800  
**ADMISSION:** \$5, adults, \$3, children 17 & under; free, members, and children under five

## EXHIBIT Peace in Middle East? Simply a child's state of mind

**WHAT:** "Peace Through Humor: Visions of Peace from the Hands of Children"  
**WHEN:** Through Sunday, August 23  
**WHERE:** Janice Charach Epstein Museum Gallery, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield  
**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, (248) 661-7641  
**NOTE:** Exhibit touring the U.S. under the direction of the Consulate General of Israel and the Public Affairs Division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Worlds apart: Sylvia Nelson, director of the Janice Charach Gallery, contends the exhibit shows the different views about peace and violence of Israeli and local children.

**Time for peace**  
"Peace Through Humor" is inspired and curated by Maureen Kushner, a New York City teacher who spent two years traveling throughout Israel, Druze and Bedouin students to express their feelings about war and peace. From the Lebanon border in the north to the Sinai Peninsula in the south, Kushner traveled to 24 Israeli schools, using word games, limericks and jokes to encourage students to explore

wire, a Happy Tree and dancing (yes, dancing) mosques and synagogues. Collectively, the effect of the bold and surrealistic imagery in "Peace Through Humor" is a blend of innocence and gritty realism. Kushner's travels were sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Education, which selects an annual theme. Peace, according to Kushner, seemed like a natural choice as hopes were bolstered by the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord, signed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the late Israeli Prime Minister Itzak Rabin. "You just hope in the children's memory bank that this (exhibit) will be an anchor," said Kushner, who teaches in the urban war zone of the Bronx and Washington Heights. "Maybe one little wave can lead to a bigger wave." The humor in the summer exhibit at the Jewish Community Center's gallery doesn't land anywhere near traditional visual comedy, nor does it land anywhere close to the funny-bone. Rather, the humor in the JCC exhibit can be found in a playfulness with words and a fantasy-like visual lexicon refreshingly devoid of ideology.



Stark truths: The artwork of Jewish, Arab, Druze and Bedouin children aged 8-11 from Israeli include endearing and frightening images. Above, a young artist created the menacing image entitled, "Terrorist."