

X C L U S I V E L Y Jaguar



In association with
THE JAGUAR DRIVERS CLUB

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Motoring Artists



As readers of Xclusively Jaguar magazine will know, my eldest daughter, Esta-jane Midding (who creates the layout for this magazine) is also a motoring artist. However, we are also all aware that art by its very essence can take many forms. So, over the months leading up to Christmas I will be featuring various artists, to bring to your attention the differing styles in which your Jaguar (or other cherished car) can be portrayed for posterity, perhaps as a Christmas gift?

All artists featured are members of the Guild of Motoring Artists

Feature Artist: Richard C. Neergaard

Words and pictures supplied by Richard C. Neergaard

Like most of us, I was always crazy about sports cars and restored and raced my first car aged 15. I grew up attending Formula 1 races, back in the '60s when you could actually get into the pits and meet the teams. A little bit of amateur racing and a lot of track days followed, but as an artist, I guess you could say I'm a late bloomer, having started art at the age of 53.

Creativity had always been part of my job having worked 10 years in marketing at Procter & Gamble and 20 years in senior management with their competitor, Reckitt. Among the many innovations and marketing activities in which I was involved, probably the most recognisable one is that I invented the *Finish PowerBall* tablet that goes in your dishwasher – you know, the little blue and white tab with the red ball in it.

After 30 years of moving all over the world in high pressure jobs it was time to call it a day and find something else which turned out to be car art. Living between London and Los Angeles, I attended classes at the University of the Arts, London Central Saint Martins, The Art Academy, and Otis Art School in LA. My interest was to use original car parts from race cars, exotic cars and classic cars re-cycling them as tactile, three dimensional pictures of cars. I like to think that I give a "second life" to various beautiful car parts which would be left in a box in a garage if I didn't mount them in art.

I had enough racing friends who donated old parts to start me off, and one of my earlier pieces was a James Bond Aston Martin piece entitled "*Shaken, Not Stirred.*" This was actually made out of the tail of a 1963 Turner Mark 3, a relatively obscure car used for racing, which looked so much like a DB5 that I restored it, painted it with Aston Martin's official James Bond colour called Silver Birch, and mounted it in gloss wood with martini glasses cut in half. That was my first sale at Sotheby's Aston Martin Classic Car Auction.

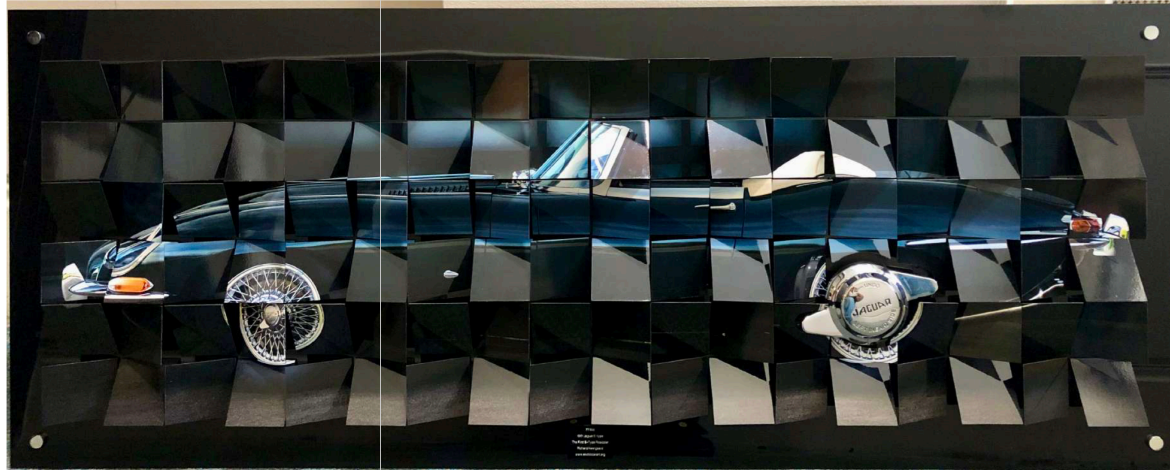
Next came a series of four pieces which set out to capture the spirit and essence of some of the most charismatic founders of great car companies: Henry Ford, Enzo Ferrari, Sir Henry Royce and Colin Chapman. Each piece expressed the colours, equity, sense, most famous founder's words and a key part from their cars.

The Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum in LA liked them so much that they commissioned me to replicate the Ford piece, which fits their American classic car theme, as well as a sculpture for their central room. I asked them what interesting car parts they had which I could use for it and they invited me to dig in an old 40 foot container which hadn't been opened in years. I found a drum full of old Ahogah horns from the '30s, welded stems on them and made a large flower bouquet.

Of course, the pinnacle of the racing world is Formula 1 so it was only natural to set a goal to find a way to make Formula 1 art and place it with the teams. As an amateur unknown artist, it's hard to get your art in anywhere but especially into racing teams which are under so much week-to-week

pressure that they can't be distracted by silly things like art. I bought some wheel nuts from the auction when the Manor Team went bankrupt and made pieces using Ferrari and Red Bull photos mounted on aluminium tiles bent at 30 degree angles, mounted on black gloss acrylic and integrating the wheel nuts as if they are a full wheel leading to an interesting 3 Dimensional look with an original F1 part. I used them as examples to contact a number of teams and finally the Alfa Romeo Racing team said they were interested. They sent me high quality photos of their car plus some wheel nuts and I made a piece for their HQ as well as another for one of the aerodynamicists who liked the piece so much he ordered one for his home.

BELOW - 77RW Side - Full Picture



T: 07773 800 100

E: richardneergaard@gmail.com

W: <http://exoticcarart.org/index.php/home/>



The style of the pieces also works well with classic cars when using a bold chrome knock off spinner and Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust commissioned two pieces to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their 1961 Jaguar E-type, 77RW; a side view with a spinner and a front view with a piece of the bumper that includes the Jaguar growler. Both were revealed on 4th July 2021 at the Jaguar Festival held at Bicester Heritage and are on permanent display at the Collections Centre in Gaydon.

In February 2020 I was fortunate to have a one month solo exhibition at the Royal Automobile Club on Pall Mall in London, right before Covid caused havoc. The Club is an outstanding venue for automobile artists since the audience is the right one and they have 17,000 members. I was invited back in 2021, and had a two month solo exhibition. I have my next exhibition at the RAC in October 2022.

PHOTOS:

Top - 77RW Front (Close up)

Middle - 77RW Front (Full Picture)

Bottom - 77RW Side (Close up)



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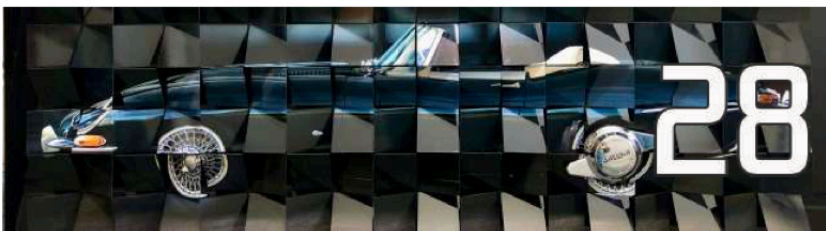
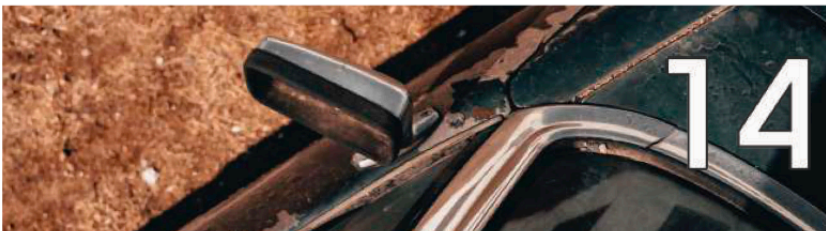
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