

INAUGURAL ARIZONA CONOURS D'ELEGANCE

ENTRIES INCLUDE HONORED MARQUES MASERATI AND PACKARD. RENOWNED ARTIST ED MELL DESIGNS TROPHIES

The inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance, a premium automotive event that starts up Arizona collector-car auction week, has chosen Packard and Maserati as its honored marques for the Sunday, January 12 event to be held at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort and Hotel.

Maserati, the renowned Italian racing and performance brand, is marking its 100th anniversary during 2014, and the Arizona Concours will serve to kick off that celebration. Magnificent pre- and post-war examples of competition and road cars from Maserati's illustrious history will be on display at the Concours. Cars to be displayed include the **1956 Maserati 150S sports racer** shown at top left, as well as a 1937 Maserati 6CM grand prix car (facing page), both owned by Bill and Linda Pope of Paradise Valley.

Packard, one of the greatest luxury brands in American history—marketed with the famous quality slogan, "Ask the man who owns one"—will have a strong presence on the Concours field, including pristine classic models among the Classic Car Club of America judging classes. Packard cars appearing include the **1932 Packard 900 Light Eight Coupe Roadster** shown second at left, owned by Gordon and Janet Apker of Des Moines WA.

"We chose these two great automakers—Packard and Maserati—to serve as the first honored marques of the Arizona Concours d'Elegance," said Kevin Cornish, director of the Arizona Concours. "The inclusion of both a famous American luxury brand and a European sports and racing brand shows the breadth of the entries for the inaugural Arizona Concours."

The inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance has chosen 80 exceptional automobiles to compete for awards. The completed list of accepted entries, gleaned from more than 150 applicants, features rare and historic vehicles from many eras and locales. They will be displayed to the public in an intimate setting within the art deco elegance of the Arizona Biltmore during this premium automotive event that starts off the famous week of collector-car auctions in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area. Among the featured cars that will appear at the Arizona Concours are:

1907 Renault AI 35-45—(Third photo at left) This 1907 Renault AI 35-45 is one of five remaining cars ordered from Renault of France by William K. Vanderbilt for himself and his friends. Renault had just won the 1906 French Grand Prix and Vanderbilt was so impressed that he ordered these slightly smaller versions of the winning car. Vanderbilt was an early supporter of automobile racing and the namesake of the Vanderbilt cup, the first interna-

(Facing page, top to bottom) 1956 Maserati 150S sports racer. 1932 Packard 900 Light Eight Coupe Roadster. 1907 Renault AI 35-45. 1924 Hispano-Suiza H6.

(At right) 1937 Maserati 6CM grand prix race car. 1937 Cord 812 convertible (Tom Mix). 1958 Lister-Jaguar factory team car. Rare 1967 Toyota 2000GT.

tional racing event in the United States.

1924 Hispano-Suiza H6—(Bottom photo at left) This unique Hispano-Suiza was originally built as a formal limousine, and then re-bodied in 1934 by Swiss coachbuilder Hermann Graber with this sporty LeBaron convertible design. Hispano-Suiza built some of the most elegant automobiles of the time, competing with Roll-Royce and other top luxury brands.

1937 Maserati 6CM—(Top right) A grand prix race car, this is one of just 27 built by the Maserati factory for its "works" racing program to compete against the state-supported German teams that were dominating Grand Prix racing at the time. The 6CM was one of the most advanced racers of the era, and examples were used by private racing teams as well with much success.

1937 Cord 812 (Tom Mix)—(Second at right) The Cord convertible owned and driven by silent-screen Western film star Tom Mix, this is the very car in which he crashed fatally October 12, 1940, near Florence, Arizona. The Cord has been completely repaired and restored, and is festooned with flags, badges and other Western regalia as Mix had decorated the car when he owned it. This is a unique and important piece of early Hollywood and Arizona history.

1958 Lister-Jaguar—(Third at right) The factory team car driven by Walt Hansgen, this Lister-Jaguar is shown in a period picture during the 1958 British Grand Prix at Silverstone. For 1957, Lister Cars of Cambridge, England, designed the car around a Jaguar D-type inline-six using an aerodynamic aluminum body. It was tested out at the time by racing journalist John Bolster, who performed a 0-100 mph sprint in 11.2 seconds. Driver Archie Scott Brown won the 1957 British Empire Trophy in a Lister-Jaguar. The Lister-Jaguar was refined again for 1958, and was entered by the team in international competition with impressive results.

1967 Toyota 2000GT—(Bottom right) Considered to be the most-collectible Japanese car of all time, the 2000GT coupe has climbed precipitously in value during the past few years. Designed by Toyota in collaboration with Yamaha, the 2000GT was displayed with much acclaim at the 1965 Tokyo Motor Show. It was produced in limited numbers between 1967 and 1970 mostly for Toyota's domestic market in Japan, although 62 left-hand-drive examples were imported to the United States.

A world-class team of concours judges, led by the acclaimed John Carlson as chief judge, will pore over the cars and choose first-, second- and third-place winners in the following classes:

- 100th Anniversary Maserati Class
- Pre-War European Sports and Racing
- Post-War Racing
- Post-War Mercedes-Benz
- Iconic Post-War American
- Full Classic Open 1925-1934
- Full Classic Closed 1925-1934
- Post-War Preservation
- Antique Automobiles pre 1916
- Post-War European Sports
- Pre-War Rolls-Royce and Bentley
- Exotic Automobiles
- Avant Guard
- Full Classic Open 1935-1948
- Full Classic Closed 1935-1948

Award winners will receive trophies specially prepared by acclaimed Arizona artist Ed Mell (see next page). A number of special awards will also be presented during the Arizona Concours.

KEEP RIGHT >>



Photo: Michael Tobian



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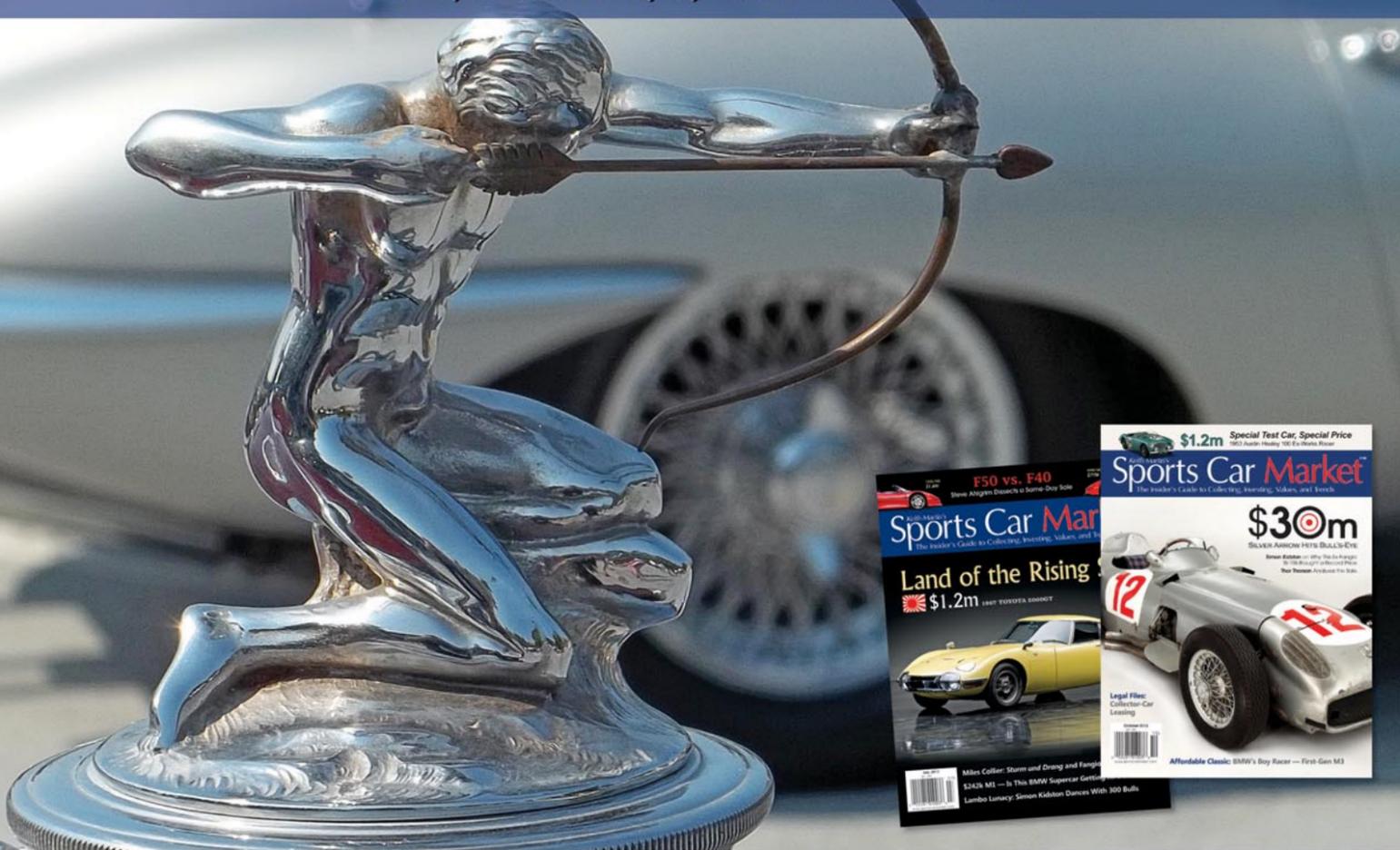
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Artist Ed Mell with one of his recent Arizona landscape paintings (right). A lost wax model for Mell's inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance trophy (below).

Ed Mell, the renowned Arizona landscape painter and sculptor, has agreed to create the trophies for the inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance. An Arizona native whose distinctive modernist style and vision have made him one of the state's most-beloved artists, Mell is creating the trophies for the Arizona Concours using a unique approach that is typical of his individualistic work, and which reflects the Art Deco atmosphere of the Arizona Biltmore—a futuristic 1930s toy car from his personal collection is being used as the model for the trophies, which will be cast in bronze for the top awards and resin for the other prizes.

“I think it's most appropriate because it's not a contemporary artist doing his vision of what a '30s car should look like; it's a true toy car done in that period with a toy designer's vision,” said Mell, a nationally recognized artist whose work is displayed in art museums and major collections. “It's not any particular (brand of) car, and I think it's going to be beautiful.”

The Arizona Concours trophies are being cast at Bollinger Atelier, a foundry in Tempe, and the bases are being crafted by Phoenix artist and furniture-maker Kevin Irvin, Mell said.

“The trophy is not big. It's not ostentatious,” Mell said. “It's a trophy you can put on your desk, which is kind of cool.”

Mell is a longtime automotive enthusiast who has been associated with Arizona's famed road-rally event, the annual Copperstate 1000, since it started 24 years ago. He created the rally's trophies and produces special paintings that are used for the Copperstate's official posters. Mell also takes part in the Arizona touring event with any of his own collector cars, which include a 1962 Chevrolet Corvette, 1963 Buick Riviera and his recently acquired 1972 DeTomaso Pantera, which he intends to drive in the 2014 edition of the Copperstate.

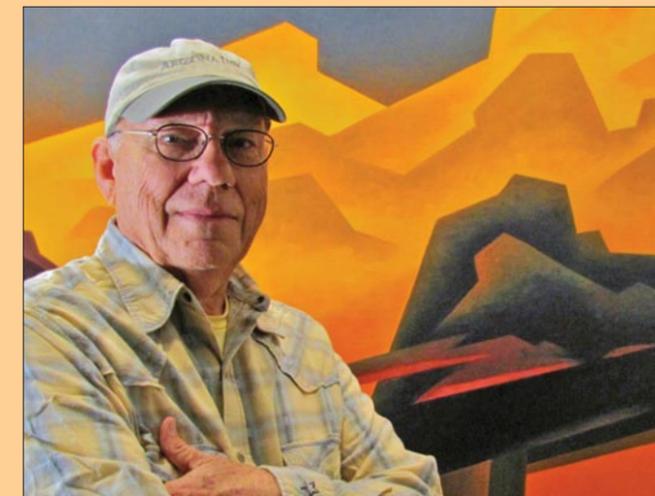
“Being a guy who's always liked automobiles and appreciated them, I think it's exciting that they're having a concours here, and fun to be involved with,” Mell said. “I think it's long overdue, really. It's very exciting for me, and I don't have to drive to Pebble Beach.”

Keith Martin, publisher of *Sports Car Market* and *American Car Collector* magazines, will serve as host and emcee for the inaugural Arizona Concours. A columnist, author, television personality and all-around collector-car enthusiast of the highest order, Martin will add his characteristic charm and expertise to delight the crowd of participants and spectators.

The inaugural Arizona Concours serves as a charity event, with proceeds benefitting Make-A-Wish Arizona, the founding chapter of the national organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. For more information about Make-A-Wish Arizona, see www.wishaz.org.

The Arizona Concours will also co-host a special cocktail party on Saturday, January 11, with Childhelp prior to the group's signature Drive the Dream gala at the Arizona Biltmore. The organization has been dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse for the past 55 years.

For more information about and tickets for the inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance, see www.arizonaconcours.com.



Photos: Arizona Concours d'Elegance [3]