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# THE AUTOMOTIVE ENTHUSIAST

BY THOMAS H. GEHRKE & SUE BAUMGÄRTNER-BARTSCH (GERMANY)

The sound came closer and closer and closer. The asphalt started to vibrate. Her pulse accelerated and the hair on her forearm began to dance tango. The sonorous buzzing became more intense, giving way to an **increasingly loud humming**, then an almost infernal roar. The silver shadow with the 12-cylinder in-line engine was over in a matter of seconds, but this experience remained in your memory forever. It shaped you, you were infected.

It could have been something like that, your first contact with one of these fascinating, four-wheeled cult objects that we love so much.

And what has happened since then? What car are you driving, and above all, what's in your garage today?

As a successful entrepreneur, you have surely noticed that prices for rare automobiles have gone through the roof in recent years. Vintage cars in particular are in greater demand than ever. There is hardly a better investment and of course hardly a nicer one. And that is a worldwide phenomenon.

Of course, you have to understand rare automobiles or know someone who does. For example, you should know that a **restored vehicle from America** likes to have concrete sills. And these could just break through after a few years. Not at all beautiful, but that is how it is.

The ranking of the most popular classic cars in Germany in recent years is led by the most American of all **muscle cars**, the **Ford Mustang**. A real “men's car”, which of course

also captivates our female “automobilistas”. The whole V8 glory in a relatively rudimentary chassis from the 1960s. That is something!

The **VW Bulli** has been in second place on the popularity scale for years. Regardless of whether T1, T2 or even the T3 rises noticeably in price level. The crowning glory of all Volkswagen fans is the so-called “**Samba**”. The VW bus with the beautiful windows in the roof edge. **Six-digit sums** are being paid for such a model. The fresh air beetle from Volkswagen is still at the forefront. The convertible, probably a childhood dream of many Germans, has lost none of its charm in 2020 and is more popular than ever. And of course the **911 Porsche** cannot be missing. For many, it is the epitome

of the sports car. The cuddly two-seater from Zuffenhausen (the rear seats are only suitable for storing the Master Card Gold) with the 6-cylinder boxer in the rear has been extremely fun to drift around every corner since 1963. And first the sound, almost erotic.

The list can go on and on. However, those of us who have the necessary change are looking for completely **different treasures**. It's about completely different sums that are often invested in garage gold. Bugatti, Ferrari, but also Rolls Royce and many others offer treasures beyond the million euros for connoisseurs with the right wallet.

And of course you want to present the hunted accordingly. And therefore, the "sacred" garage is increasingly becoming a showroom with an **adequate ambience**, a place where like-minded people can meet to exchange ideas and talk "gasoline".

To **properly stage this showroom**, garage or hall, you naturally need the right man. And that's where the freelance artist Tom H. Gehrke comes in. Originally from automotive design, he not only has the right background, but also a feel for the right design and also the unique talent to implement it. The reference list of the designed objects ranges from the restaurant and hotel industry to company complexes and private objects at home and abroad.

His works, his exhibitions, but also his perfect restorations took him far beyond Europe, to



India and America for the past 25 years.

If necessary, the artist turns your sober underground car park into a cult **old-timer** barn, and he transforms your premises into a historic racing scene or historic petrol station. With Tom H. Gehrke's art, your walls almost disappear. They dissolve, the room becomes larger, sun-drenched or oil-smearing, depending on the motif, to match the passion for **vintage cars**.

The alternative that has been very popular for a few years now would be a three-dimensional design with Italian "**Stucco Pompeii**". Your walls would have the appearance of old sheet metal, leather or granite, into which you could, for example, incorporate the logo of your company or your favorite automobile brand. It has a very noble appearance, also haptic. There are no limits to the imagination and this artist, Tom Gehrke, has plenty.



Incidentally, the pictures shown are mural paintings from the collection of a real automotive enthusiast in Upper Bavaria. He is happy to invite his amazed guests to celebrate his passion in the midst of the artfully refined ambience.

And the artist, what is he doing right now?

He is currently working on a project together with a restorer of fast-paced German automobiles in the southern area of Munich.

Everything is still top secret! Only so much can be revealed that it will be unique and will attract international attention.

You can find more information about Thomas Gerhke on his website, or simply call or email him:

Thomas H. Gehrke

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