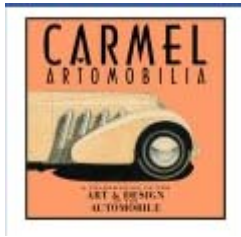


ISU dragster painting unveiled at motorsports-sponsored event Sept. 12



TERRE HAUTE, Ind. -- An Indianapolis-area artist has brought to life on canvas and in full color, Indiana State University's Team Sycamore Racing dragster, and her impressionistic-style painting will be formally unveiled as part of the 2009 Carmel Artomobilia event, Sept. 12, co-sponsored by ISU's Motorsports Studies program.

The artist, Kim Watanabe, is donating her piece -- "Full Throttle Education" -- to Indiana State, and the unveiling will occur at a private reception and ceremony in conjunction with Carmel Artomobilia -- a celebration of the art and design of the automobile. The second annual event will take place in the Arts and Design District of Carmel from noon to 6 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The painting is Watanabe's attempt to capture, through an explosion of color, the tension that takes place on the track, she said.

"I tried to show the energy of what I think happens in racing," she said. "I wanted to portray ... that terrific burst of energy that happens with the light changes and the dragster launching away from the tree (starting light)."

Because the ISU Motorsports program is a co-sponsor of Carmel Artomobilia, the venue presents a perfect opportunity for the unveiling of Watanabe's painting. During the day-long event, Team Sycamore Racing's dragster will be on display for fans to see, as well as a Formula BMW Series open wheel racecar from Team Apex Racing of Brownsburg. Team Apex, led by Jim Exline and David Hunt, has partnered with Indiana State to provide real-world learning opportunities for ISU students through internships with the team.



Throughout the day, Carmel-area galleries, restaurants and design houses will join collector car owners to present a display of automotive design on wheels and canvas. In addition, ISU Motorsports Studies students will be involved by serving as judges to help determine which of the cars on display will earn the students' choice award.

Joyce Young, coordinator of the ISU Motorsports Studies program, sees the involvement of ISU students at the event as a natural extension of their coursework.

"In our Motorsports Management minor, we offer a course 'History of the Automobile: The First 100 Years,'" she said. "The Artomobilia event literally places many of the historical cars within arm's reach of the students."

This fall, Young is partnering with the ISU College of Education and faculty member Lisa Cutter to develop a motorsports-themed summer reading program called "Revved Up to Read," for public libraries throughout Indiana, and the TSR dragster will play a vital role in the delivery of this program. "Motorsports studies provides such a rich context for learning in many disciplines at the university," Young said.

Following the Carmel Artomobilia event, Watanabe's painting will be on permanent display in the ISU College of Business. She has also given ISU rights to reproduce the painting, with all proceeds going to support ISU's Motorsports Studies program.

Young says she plans to expand the university's involvement with Artomobilia next year by displaying and selling motorsports-themed artwork created by Indiana State students.

For more information about Carmel Artomobilia, visit the show's website at: www.carmelartsanddesign.com/FEATURES/artomobilia. For more about ISU's Motorsports Studies program or to inquire about purchasing reprints of Watanabe's work, go to www.indstate.edu/motorsports or contact Teresa Stateler at (812) 237-2000 or at Teresa.Stateler@indstate.edu.

About ISU and Motorports Studies:

Indiana State University emerged from the starting line in April 2006 with a minor in motorsports management. Today, the minor boasts more than 50 students from a diverse set of majors, representing all five colleges at ISU. The university itself is a four-year, public co-educational university in west central Indiana with a student population of more than 10,000. Learn more at www.indstate.edu

About Carmel Artomobilia:

Unlike any other event, the second annual Carmel Artomobilia marries the beauty of classic, vintage, exotic and rare car collections with artists inspired by automotive design. From historic Duesenbergs to late model Lamborghinis, Artomobilia guests will celebrate decades of engineering and craftsmanship. The 2009 event marks the 100th anniversary of the Hudson and Carmel Artomobilia will celebrate the innovation and ingenuity the Hudson represents.

About the Artist:

Watanabe is originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan. She attended Indiana University and is a past director of Arts Columbus. She works with pencil, watercolors, acrylics, oils, and mixed media, and maintains a working studio near Westfield.