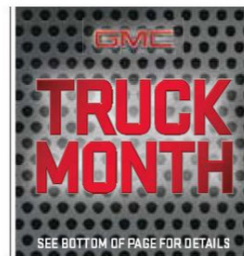


RAMPING UP THE ATTITUDE

Formidable BMW sport-ute-coupe gets a refresh, [W6](#)



WHEELS

PRE-OWNED WHEELS

2011-2014 Nissan Juke,
[Page W22](#)

Artful classics, vintage Toronto



CHRISTOS KALONIDRIS

owned by Ross McTavish of Waterloo is featured in an episode of *Murdoch Mysteries*, in which the title detective investigates the early days of auto clubs and a murder by motor car in the early 20th century.

A stunning exhibit at the upcoming Canadian International Auto Show has concours-quality cars posed with dazzling backdrops from TV's *Murdoch Mysteries*



BACKDROP IMAGE COURTESY SHAFTSBURY PRODUCTIONS, LORI BUCHARDT/GES GRAPHICS, ROBERT CROWTHER/ROCKET SCIENCE VFX, TORONTO ARCHIVES

GERRY MALLOY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

What do art and the automobile have in common?

That question will be asked and answered, visually and viscerally, by a spectacular feature exhibit of the same name at the 2015 Canadian International Auto Show, which opens to the public next Friday at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The show, which will be open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and run until Sunday, Feb. 22 — including the Feb. 16 Family Day public holiday — will feature more than 1,000 vehicles and the Canadian debut of 45 new production and concept vehicles.

A Family Admission Ticket (two adults and two children 12 and under) costs \$45; kids under 6 get in free. Single admission is \$23, or \$18 with a discount ticket.

As well as the Art and the Automobile exhibit, old favourites such as Auto Exotica and AutoConnect are back for 2015. New features, including a Ripley's Believe It Or Not! display and an Xbox One gaming area, will also be featured.

The connection between art and the automobile is not new. They have been intertwined since the earliest days of the industry. Not only have cars been the subjects of art in multiple forms, but many are legitimate works of art themselves.

[MURDOCH continued on W14](#)

>AUTO SHOW COVERAGE



Beginning next Friday, a Toronto Star Wheels daily will be distributed at the Canadian International Auto Show.

A complete rundown of the comprehensive Wheels coverage planned is in today's section, see page [W14](#)

>> CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Exhibit casts automobiles as works of art

MURDOCH from W1

This elegant auto-show exhibit addresses both perspectives as it tells the story of almost a century of artistic evolution in vehicle design, presented in a gallery-like setting along with the works of internationally renowned Canadian automotive artists Ken Dallison and Jay Koka.

Art and the Automobile is presented by the Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance — Canada's premier classic car event, to be held this year on Sept. 12 and 13 near Owen Sound, Ont. — and by the hit CBC TV series, *Murdoch Mysteries*, yet another artistic connection.

Many of the 19 cars featured in the exhibit have been shown in past Cobble Beach exhibitions, and four are from the set of *Murdoch Mysteries*. They will be accompanied by full-size stand-ups of actors from the show (selfies are encouraged).

Six cars tease show visitors toward the gallery itself (Room 718 on the 700 level of the South Metro Toronto Convention Centre). They begin with a 1907 Ford Model R and a 1911 Brush, from the Murdoch series, and a 1926 Bugatti Type 36 road/race car.

The entrance to the gallery is centred by GM's rocket-inspired 1959 Cadillac Cyclone concept car (modified and shorn of its original chest-high fins in 1964), flanked by two equally significant concepts from the same period.

The 1963 Ford Mustang II concept gave the public its first preview of what would become the original Mustang production car. And a Chrysler turbine car (one of nine remaining from 50 built to test the technology) represented the last vestiges of stylists' infatuation with air-craft.

Inside the gallery, the story begins with the reconstructed 1867 Henry Seth Taylor Steam Buggy, believed to be the first automobile built in Canada, and progresses through the horseless carriage and "brass" eras, when the art was primarily in the details, as represented by a 1903 Ford and a 1908 REO, also featured in *Murdoch Mysteries*.

By the second decade of the century, form began to mesh with function



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Ken Dallison is one of a handful of artists whose automotive-themed work is in demand all over the world.

as cars evolved into more than mere transportation, epitomized in the exhibit by a stunning yellow 1912 Stutz Bearcat, arguably one of the world's first sports cars.

By the end of the 1920s, styling had become both a key differentiator among vehicles and a way for buyers to make a fashion statement — exemplified in the exhibit by a dashing 1929 Auburn Boat-tail Speedster that looks fast even while standing still.

The 1930s saw a progression of automotive style that embraced the extravagance of the art deco age. A traditionally styled 1932 Packard show-nose roadster and a futuristic 1936 Cord 810 Phaeton bookmark that fast-moving progression within the display.

The apogee of streamlined prewar style was reached by the great French custom body builders of the day, represented by the magnificent 1936 Delahaye Type 135 Competition Court Teardrop Coupe, which claimed both Best in Show and People's Choice honours at the 2014 Cobble Beach Concours.

The show is worth seeing for that car alone.

The progression toward more integrated designs, with fenders as part



Helene Joy plays Dr. Julia Ogden in CBC's *Murdoch Mysteries* along with Yannick Bisson as the titular Det. William Murdoch.

of the bodywork rather than separate components, is highlighted by a 1941 Cadillac Series 60 sedan, which was at the vanguard of that styling evolution, and further exemplified postwar by a 1948 Tucker (made famous by the movie *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*).

By the early '50s, bulging fenders were history and the aircraft influence, combined with plenty of chrome, took over as the dominant styling theme of the era, the beginnings of which are reflected in the exhibit's 1953 Buick Skylark convertible.

They led directly to the finned era, which reached its extremes with the display's 1959 Cadillac Eldorado Seville. While some aircraft and rocket-

age influence continued into the 1960s, there was a noticeable shift to pure form, without an excess of chrome, as epitomized by the now-classic Jaguar XK-E that concludes the exhibit.

Magnificent as the cars are, their staging, created by event manager and auto show media director Beth Rhind, is equally stunning. A Toronto history enthusiast, she set most of the vehicles against huge individual backdrops depicting historic Toronto scenes and architecture, from the same periods as the cars. Great for photography!

You may recognize some of the backdrops from *Murdoch Mysteries*, as the images were provided by Shaftesbury, the show's producers. Others were sourced from the Canadian National Exhibition Archives, Toronto Archives, Cobble Beach, Parkwood Estate and the McLaughlin family.

They were processed into their extra-large form by Robert Crowther of Rocket Science VFX and the GES Graphic Team — a significant task by itself.

The net result is a key component of the auto show that's not to be missed. It may just steal the show.

Canada's auto artists

The world of automotive fine art comprises a small but elite group of internationally acclaimed artists whose work is in high demand from art and automobile connoisseurs.

Canadians Jay Koka and Ken Dallison live and work near Toronto and their works will be featured in the Art and the Automobile exhibit at the Canadian International Auto Show.

Koka is a director of the Automotive Fine Arts Society (AFAS), while Dallison's work has appeared in the Smithsonian and on 28 U.S. postage stamps.

The Toronto auto show offers a rare opportunity to see and appreciate works by Koka and Dallison together.

Gerry Malloy

> STAR WHEELS AUTO SHOW COVERAGE

In today's Wheels: We take a close-up look at cars and trucks that will be unveiled at this year's show.

Coming Thursday: A special Auto Show Preview section will be included in Thursday's Star.

Beginning Friday: On the first day of the Auto Show, a special tabloid issue of Toronto Star Wheels will be distributed to showgoers and available in special Star boxes throughout the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. These special tabloid issues will be updated daily and available until the show ends on Feb. 22.

More surprises: Next weekend's Toronto Star Wheels will feature comprehensive coverage of the Canadian Car and Truck/Utility Vehicle of the Year awards.

A second Special Section: Wheels will tell you all about technology and how it's changing the auto industry in the Thurs., Feb. 19, edition of the Toronto Star.