

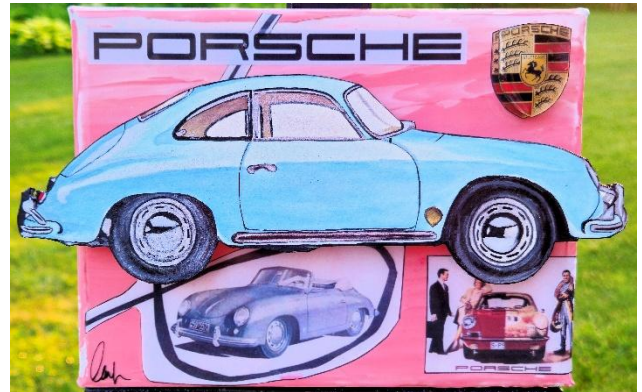
Automotive Art & Design at the Troy Traffic Jam

Sunday, August 2nd

In the Columbia Center 101 Lobby!

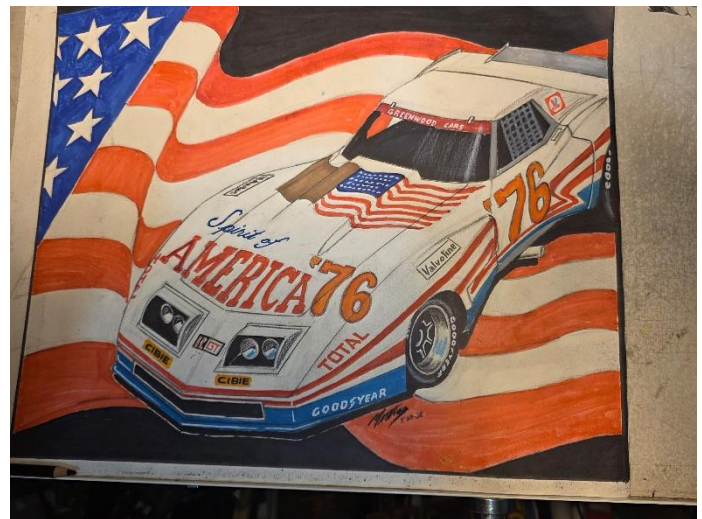


Leah Bennett is a Michigan mixed-media artist and co-owner of **RM Motorsports**, where her lifelong connection to the automotive world continues to inspire her work. Growing up around racing, she made cars one of her earliest artistic subjects, and this collection marks a return to those creative roots. Combining her signature mixed-media style with hand-painted illustrations, vintage automotive imagery, and dimensional elements, Leah creates artwork that celebrates the history, craftsmanship, and emotion behind iconic automobiles. Her collection also includes handcrafted automotive jewelry and painted apparel, reflecting her passion for creating art that resonates with fellow car enthusiasts.



Robert Matthews has always been captivated by the roar of an engine and the sleek curves of a well-designed car. His earliest memories are of watching race cars zoom by on TV and sketching their designs in the margins of his school notebooks. This passion ignited a lifelong journey that has shaped both his career and his personal life. Today, Robert channels his love for cars into his work at **Matthews Motorsport**. With a

keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of automotive design, he brings vehicles to life on paper and screen, capturing the essence of speed, power, and elegance. His work is a blend of technical precision and creative flair, earning him recognition within the industry.





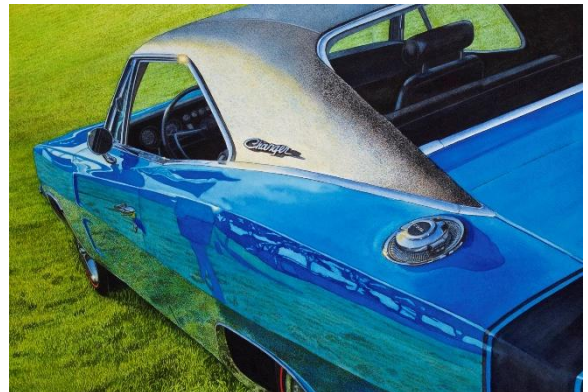
Em Beckman has always been creative and even studied fine arts in college, but never really pursued it. Her first career path was commercial painting interiors and constructions sites, but that path took a turn when she was hired for a random mural project. Through that life-changing project she found her passion. In 2025 she took a leap of faith to follow her heart and become a full-time artist, and she hasn't looked back since! She loves sharing her passion through her classes and her work.

Through painting, Em accidentally fell in love with cars. She enjoys combining the two passions in pieces that range from realistic to abstract but are always full of color.



Dan McCrary was hooked for life when he first heard the unmuffled flathead engines of the old Ford Coupes in the 1950's. Though he took a brief detour through the music business, college, and the Army, Dan came back to automobiles and took up painting and drawing. Around 1980 he transitioned to a full-time automotive artist with watercolor being his medium of choice. Since then he's been featured in a variety of automotive publications and juried automotive art exhibits.

Dan calls North Carolina home, but he tours the country to show and sell his artwork.



College for Creative Studies Transportation Design

Paul Snyder, Chair

The CCS Transportation Design program has spent 60+ years becoming the best. This century's wave of ingenuity, including autonomous vehicles and mobility-forward design, is powered by the designers that teach and learn here. Additionally, the global design chiefs Moray Callum of Ford Motor Company, Ralph Gilles of Stellantis and Mike Simcoe of General Motors — who all keep a close eye on the program's quality — sit on the CCS Board of Trustees.

