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تورستن مولر - أوتفوس
"إننا نجد عملائنا الأكثر تطلباً بتوفير
قمة الرفاهية والفخامة."

برندان بويل، أيديو
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التصميمي" لمساعدة الشركات على
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MARKUS HAUB



Porsche 917, size 73 x 92cm

Artist profile

Words by **Tara Stevens**



MARKUS HAUB

You might describe Markus Haub as an accidental artist: someone who came to the craft through his passion for vintage sports cars rather than a love of paint. But his work over the past few years has earned him critical acclaim among art collectors and car enthusiasts, placing him at the pinnacle of a highly specialised niche market.

Haub started 'scribbling' cars – as he describes it – when he was 15 or 16 years old; but he didn't realise it was something you could actually study until he began a course in transportation design in Pforzheim, Germany. "I did go to Formula One," he told me when we met to talk about his recent collaboration with the Speed Star Gallery in Barcelona, where he is now based. "But I was more interested in sports cars – Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche – and especially the shape and the sculpture of them."

Years later he realised that the sticking point between a designer and his dream was the pragmatism of the engineers, which is ultimately what led him back to art. Feeling limited by where design could take him, he moved from the Design Center Europe (Volkswagen Group) in Sitges (about an hour south of Barcelona) to the Renault design studio in the Catalan capital. Haub

subsequently found himself with space enough at home for a small studio, where he began playing with digital photos.

"As a designer you focus on the new and the future," he explained, "but in my art I found I was going back to classic car events for inspiration and, particularly, models I didn't know. I saw a deep beauty in them, in their curves and shape. My *Racing Legends* series was born from digging deeper into the subject."

Colour features heavily in Haub's work. He loves reds and neons, and context is key to the finished work. "I look at cars on the racetrack, in museums, at events," he says. "And I love all the old iconic sponsorship stickers from the 1970s. It gives me endless material to work with."

Using digital photographs as a starting point, Haub will enhance, cut, filter, and add colour to frame his composition before printing the image in small sheets to give him an idea of the direction the work is going in. "With glue, water, and a brush I can destroy the photo," he says with a beaming smile. "I look for just enough destruction and then I add back in with paint, oil, pencil, whatever. Sometimes things happen that I can't control and I don't know the result. It's quite a physical interaction and it can

seem quite violent, which is why I don't do people; that would seem wrong."

Haub's work currently comprises cars and cityscapes (mainly Barcelona, Paris, and New York) in equal measure, and he enjoys the contrast of the horizontal and vertical lines of the city with the rounded, voluminous shapes of the cars. Often, the two are intertwined. "I like to break the roundness of a car with the geometry of an urban landscape," he explains.

With much of his work sold online, Haub collaborates primarily with Ulfert Janssen, who launched the Speed Star Gallery in Barcelona to create a more integrated platform for interaction between the artist and collectors. He also attracts enthusiasts who commission him to do custom 'portraits' of their own cars – an area that is growing.

"I just want to express beauty in unconventional places," he says when asked what's next. "But sometimes I wish for more time. I still have a lot to explore – the Goodwood Festival of Speed, for example, or time to take more photos in New York – but the material left to translate is endless." ✂

Starting prices for works are €1,200 for 60 x 60cm.

www.speedstar-gallery.com

✂ Qatar Airways flies from Doha to Barcelona daily.



Maserati Tipo, size 80 x 80cm



Ferrari 250 GTO, size 60 x 60cm