



colors, flowing ribbons, and 3-D flames that mark Art's work as some of the most creative designs ever created. Often dubbed psychedelic due to the era coinciding with his rise to prominence, Art's creations have always pushed the limits of what is possible with an airbrush and masking tape. His intricate and unique pin striping dazzles no matter which decade he created them in, and his trademark flames have stood the test of time for the last four decades, attracting new fans even today among the Millennial generation while still delighting Baby Boomers, Gen Xers and everyone in between. Art's talent and artistry has truly spanned and survived every generation in which he has produced his masterpieces, and the continued interest in and appreciation of his work validates his position as a true artist and visionary.

After over 40 years of building award-winning show cars and creating his own special interpretation of stripes, flames and graphics on customs, the legendary artist continues to paint on his own terms on projects that entice and excite him. His favorite jobs are anything he hasn't done before, which is a tall order, considering he's painted everything from award winning hot rods to unlimited hydroplanes to to airplanes. Then again, Art approaches every job as being unique. Over the years, his work continues to be recognized by its elegant lines, surreal flame patterns and dramatic use of paint and materials that always showcase Art's boundless imagination.

Art has never become enamored of his body of work or his exalted reputation among the hot rod, custom car and paint community. He continues to be a mentor to aspiring young artists. In keeping with this attitude, Art is quick to assist other painters, saying "I'll help anybody that needs help. It doesn't bother me a bit. I wish somebody would've been there that I could've called." In addition to giving advice over

the phone, Art often lends a hand at custom shows, rubbing down a car or helping set up a booth at the last minute. Although he doesn't actually work at the shows, Art can often be found at rod and custom events in Oakland, Portland, Sacramento, Reno and all over Northern California. "I enjoy going to shows because they give me the chance to talk to people I haven't seen in a year," he says. Attending shows also gives him new ideas and reaffirms his belief that the business of custom painting will prosper well into the future. "Before, I thought this whole thing was going to die out. But I go to some of these events and it's not slowing down at all - it's multiplying."

Art believes that much of this increasing popularity has to do with the resurgence of retro styles. The majority of his clients fall between the ages of 35 and 60; they are the people who always wanted a hot rod or custom car when they were in school but couldn't afford it. Now, they're settled, the kids are gone, and they've got the money to indulge in one. "Most people I paint for end up being my friends," Art says. I'm fairly selective about the jobs I take, I like to get to know the individual before painting their vehicle. I want to meet the person and talk to them, so I know who they are and what they're about. I pattern the paint to match the person."

Honoring Art Himsl as the featured artist and guest of the Gualala Arts Auto Show continues the show's long tradition of recognizing the pioneers in the art of the automobile in an intimate setting unlike any other auto show that you will ever attend. The show is truly thrilled to feature Art as its honored guest this year, and we hope that all of the participants and guests will share our enthusiasm for Art's work and welcome him to the fabulous Sonoma/Mendocino coast for this unique and wonderful automotive event.