

WHAT A CAR SHOW!!!!

Back in March, I had the privilege of attending a car show that really touched me as an avid car enthusiast. Now, I have been to a lot of car shows. Big and small. From parks to stadiums. Customs, frame-offs, restorations, originals, modifieds. And I love watching Barrett-Jackson Auctions. I have photos, posters, books and calendars of cars. Some calendars are years old, but I still like the pictures. All types of cars. I love cars. With a lot more money, I could be like Jay Leno. Everyone has his or her favorites. Fast, comfortable, exotic, luxury, old, rare. It's what YOU like to drive, want to drive, dream of owning. That's what gets your heart pumping & your mind wondering.

Anyway, Liz went to Reno with her Mom and some friends. I called some of my friends to see who wasn't busy if they would like to go to a car show in Fresno with me. The Fresno Autorama. Some were busy, some I didn't make contact with till the next day. I ended up going with just my camera. As I walked through the door to the Convention Center, I realized this wasn't going to be a normal "WOW, nice paint job" kind of show. You see custom everything! *CUSTOM!* Not a lot of "stocks" or "originals" here. Then you find out it's put on by Blackie Gejeian. Who? This guy has dedicated his life to the custom car event. He travels the WORLD looking for the newest, freshest, most pristine vehicles that he personally invites to his show. And when Blackie invites you, it's hard to turn down coming. He pays you to show up. No entry fees. He handles all the costs of shipping you and your ride to the venue. Covers most of your expenses. That's how he can put on the best display of custom-imagery of machinery from around the globe every year.

As you stumble around the arena, you stop saying "sorry" and "excuse me" as you notice everyone else is walking like you. Head and body, twisting and kneeling, trying to catch each and every angle, to fully feel and digest all that has gone into these works. Hand building custom parts to make your ride that much different than the next one. Trust me, no J.C. Whitney here!

You try to understand what has been conceived and constructed before you. Cars, trucks, bikes; old, new. Custom everything to all areas of each entrant. Chopped, cut, frenched, shaved, pinched, added, lengthened, shortened, shoved into, taken out of, flattened, rolled, smoothed, blown, injected, naturally aspirated, turboed, twin turboed, carbureted, painted, polished, chromed, buffed, candied, cleared, pin striped, graphicated. Get it yet? Colors you try to figure out how they come up with. "Doubled Pearl

Tangerine over Orion Gold" *WHAT THE?* Find THAT in Krylon! Blacks - Blacker than the outermost reaches of the universe. Whites - Whiter than the highest, purest snows. Colors like a rainbow in a blender. Not from a color chip, more like a Jimi Hendrix acid trip. So vivid, bold, clean, unique. Chrome that's not just "chrome". More like double, triple chrome. Then buffed polished, RE-chromed and polished. Paints applied 8,10,12 coats deep with different bases that end up with pearls and clears like no other. The finishes are so smooth it's like a coat of fresh spring water not having run off the surface yet. Not a blemish or wave or faltering. Glass, not like glass, more like mountain air. So clear & smooth you want to touch it to make sure there is something installed there. As you wonder around gazing at the craftsmanship of all these beauties, how could you pick "Best of Show"? You see one you think could be the best in the building. Only to walk a little further to see one that has a nicer one of these, or a better one of those.

As you go around each corner of each aisle, walk around each display, you see one not quite as nice as the others. This one set alone at any "Car Show" any where, could easily walk away with "Best of Show". But set against this back drop of ultimates, it just looks OK.

If you ever get a chance to venture into a Blackie's AutoRama, definitely experience it as much as I did. Even alone you can enjoy the mechanical exhilaration of this personal encounter. But shared with fellow enthusiast; it could become something anticipated annually as eagerness & pleasurable expectation to see what next year brings.....

Oh yeah "***DON'T FORGET TO CALL ME!!!!!!***"