

Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

ART of the Hot Rod collector's edition

by Ken Gross, photography by Peter Harholdt

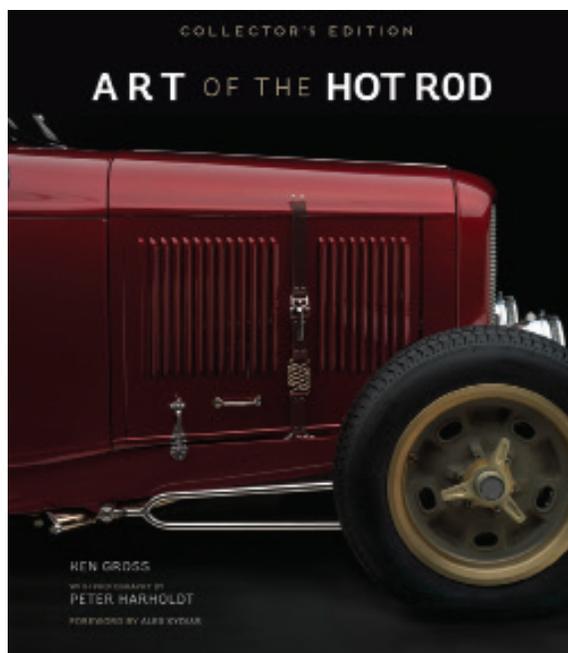
published by Motorbooks, Minneapolis, MN (3/1/16)

Bruce Herrington



The engineering of the cover display is Porsche quality. Otherwise, the only Porsche content is a small shot of a Cayenne V8 stuffed into the engine bay of a '34 Ford. All in all, this is not the book for the compulsive Porsche purist, but for anyone who is enamored by the look of cars, or of their components, this is a must have book.

Page after page of awesome portraits, not *pictures*, portraits of Hot Rods, are interspersed with textual interludes about the people who make these cars as spectacular as they are. The photography is as superb as the fabrication (both bodywork and mechanicals), which they illustrate. It is truly a *picture book* with page after page of color photographs and an envelope in the back containing four 8x10 prints (suitable-for-framing, as they say). Actually, this reviewer is as enthusiastic about framing the cover of the envelope as about any of the contents!



ART of the HOT ROD collector's edition is arranged in 20 chapters, each one expressing the story/philosophy of a particular Hot Rod builder, and introducing a section of photos of the type of product with which that individual deals. This reviewer finds the stories fascinating, giving the book considerable *it's not the cars, it's the people* value. Somewhat frustrating is the fact that the creator may eloquently describe the genesis and design characteristics of a very interesting car that is not included in the following illustrations. There is some backhanded Porsche content in that one of the builders profiled is Don Orasco, once a significant presence in vintage Porsche racing. Interestingly, it looks like Scarabs, not Spyderys, in the background of his shop picture.

The machines shown are truly masterpieces of automotive art, mostly perfection of original production design, not ex-

otic creations, but the workmanship is spectacular. Some of these cars give new meaning to sanitary mechanical components. It is mind-blowing to contemplate the hours and hours of meticulous work done on detailing individual engines or suspensions. For the concours types, these are 301 point cars!

Most vehicles shown are recognizable as to their basic origins, but there are some truly exotic creations illustrated, such as the 1935 Ford Aeroliner, which looks like it is a mile long and a foot high with turbo-fan wheels. Other cars, and pickups, look like mere restorations to original, unless you notice the wheels or get to see under the hood. And then there are some *lakesters*, and some old tyme dragsters with history. A full page picture can be devoted to the sweep of a fender, a half-page to a billet suspension upright - the list of fascinating pictures in this book just goes on and on. Some of the pictures are so artistic that one could visualize them on the wall of a

art museum, with say, Andy Warhol, or Alexander Calder in his less flamboyant period.

Masterpiece of the printing art in many ways, the frequent two-page spreads match perfectly across the spine. All in all, an awesome book. If you like looking at cars and want an awesome conversation piece for your coffee table, this book is a must have! There is a one page index, though somewhat redundant with the table of contents, and an interesting sort of an appendix that describes how these studio portraits were shot in-the-field.

ART of the HOT ROD collector's edition is hardbound with laminated printed cover and contains 248, 10-11/2 x 12 inch pages, with 350 artistic illustrations, almost all in color. It should now be available for \$60 from your favorite book-seller (ask for it) or from <http://www.motorbooks.com>.