

Jay Koka Biography Thirty Eight Years of Automotive Fine Art Excellence

(2025, authorized for reproduction)

"Although I'm a lifelong motorhead, my interest in automotive fine art is in the context in which the automobile exists rather than the depiction of the automobile itself. The interplay of the vehicle and its environment and its human operators is to me the most worthwhile pursuit of fine art..."

A well-known and internationally respected artist, Jay Koka's skillful manipulation of color and mood plus considered composition... and an occasionally impressionist style... exemplify the artist who is never satisfied with the status quo. Initially known for a highly realistic style and a technical approach to his automotive themed art, he replaced the small and tightly rendered gouache works with large format canvases with a notable disregard for detail and an emphasis on explorations in texture, form and color early in his career. Always creatively restless and endlessly experimenting in the style of his work, Koka today alternates between these two style extremes ... realism and impressionism exist side by side in his body of work.

Koka's original works are collected by private and public audiences worldwide. A career filled with accomplishment is exemplified by his selection by the Chrysler Corporation for the creation of "Metamorphosis", a major 80 square foot, 4-panel work for the launch of the corporation's World Headquarters in 1996. He is particularly well known for his large and widely disseminated body of work on Ferrari. In fact, his art has been used as a Christmas card by the Ferrari Club of Italy and in 1998, his work was selected for exhibition at the "CENTARIO FERRARI", the centenary celebrations held in Modena, Italy by Ferrari. Koka was also commissioned by Nissan to produce artwork for the 35th anniversary celebration of the "Z".

His work has been extensively reproduced and he has received numerous art awards including the prestigious Peter Helck Award, multiple Athena's at Pebble Beach, the Lincoln Awards at Pebble Beach, multiple Awards of Excellence and The Stanley Wanlass Awards at Meadow Brook, Best of Show at Philadelphia and many others for his work at major exhibitions. In 2007, Koka's work was featured in a three-and-a-half month long one man show... a retrospective spanning 20 years... titled "The Art of Jay Koka" at the National Automobile Museum in Reno Nevada. Later that year, most of the exhibit's paintings moved on to the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles for a 5 month showing.

Featured artist and poster artist for many international automotive events, his resume includes the famed Pebble Beach and Meadow Brook Concours, Bloomington Gold, Concours of the Eastern United States, Eyes on Design, Cobble Beach Concours, the Ferrari Club of America Annual Meets, the original Cavallino Ferrari Classic of Palm Beach and the Detroit Auto Show. In 2008, Koka was commissioned to produce the event/poster art for the inaugural Louisville Concours d'Elegance held at the fabled Churchill Downs as well as the featured art for the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale Arizona and the Daytona 500 in 2009. In 2011, he was commissioned to produce a huge 100x67" single canvas for the lobby of a boutique hotel in Bahrain, in addition to the event art for the Rolex 24 at Daytona. Continuing in his longstanding

relationship, he produced the art for "One Lap of North America", the Ferrari Club of America's 50th Anniversary project.

Koka's extensive, exotic worldwide travel has inspired a series of popular and critically acclaimed major works. Based on exotic locations, paintings like "Old Propaganda Posters" sited in Hanoi, Vietnam "Seven Tuks in Bangkok" and "Calao" in Lima Peru capture both the look, mood and feel of their settings with exceptional sensitivity. "At the Darwaza Gate" and "Pres de Champ de Mars" follow with scenes as varied as the Taj Mahal and Paris and even Phuket, Thailand in "Welcome to Patong Beach". In addition, he has produced a popular suite of works centered on iconic Paris France locations. The travel themed work is presented on the studio website in an extensive section called "The Art of Travel".

A major, hardcover book was published in 2016 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Studio. Titled "30:30" it is an extensive profile of the artist and his work... a second updated edition was released 5 years later.

In 2018 Koka became a member of the "ArtistAuto" group in Europe and participates in their annual exhibit at the Retromobile show in Paris, France. A 30 year member of the Automotive Fine Arts Society, he served for many years on the board and as Sec/Treasurer.

Most recently, and following a lifelong interest in wooden boats, the Studio launched a new section in 2022 featuring Marine Themed Art. His first marine event/poster art was released in 2025 to celebrate the Gravenhurst Classic Boat Show.

Jay Koka Studio has published a large and popular body of some 200 paper and canvas print editions which have been distributed throughout the world. Jay Koka Studio EDITIONS are published and distributed by Headlight Productions Inc and Knightbridge Publishing Incorporated which is an affiliated company.

Koka enjoyed a successful corporate career in marketing prior to the formation of his Studio in 1985 and incorporation in 1987. He is a computer "geek" and an internet "pioneer" being one of the earliest artists to fully embrace the concept of a virtual gallery. Koka is also an avid superbike rider...his last ride a Ducati 999... and a lifelong automotive enthusiast with recent drives including a Porsche 987 Cayman S and a Mercedes-Benz CLS63 AMG and Audi S5 Technik. He has two sons, Michael, a senior marketing designer and James, a telecommunications director. Koka has his home and Studio in Kitchener (near Toronto) with his wife Catherine.

Jay Koka accepts a small number of private and corporate commissions for original art each year. You can contact the artist directly at:

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