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## Racing Cars - The Art Dimension...

By Asbjorn Lonvig

The newly opened art museum ARoS Denmark presents a large, artistic total installation on Formula One and Le Mans racing cars. With this world premiere of the unique meeting between art and racing cars, ARoS focuses on the sculptural and aesthetic dimensions of the cars – dimensions which will be emphasized in the artistic presentation.

The exhibition covers all of 1,400 square meters of the museum's special exhibition space and foyer.

### Sculpture on wheels.

The exhibition aims to give the audience an experience of the dynamics and strength latent in the form language of these cars. By regarding racing cars not just as functional items, but also as pure form – as sculpture on wheels – the exhibition creates a symbiosis between two widely differing worlds: between the ultimate motor sport, and art.

The exhibition presents highlights of design history in the Formula One and Le Mans cars from 1932, and through almost three quarters of a century.

The exhibited racing cars are not only unique in their design forms; they have also seen active service on racetracks the world over, with such legendary drivers as Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart.

### Total installation.

In a ground-breaking presentation, guests are introduced to a unique universe.

The walls have been painted black.

The floor covered by reflecting steel plates.

The gallery columns have become red, metallic pistons.

The lights have been turned into giant piston rings.

The racing cars are presented on steel podiums in an installation of light, sound and moving images.

On the black walls hang relief showing the contours of the world's Formula One racetracks, while the big screens in the exhibition rooms show sequences from races, relating the exhibition to the reality for which the cars were created.

### Soundtrack.

The many visual impressions are supported by an acoustic soundscape which lends an extra dimension to the exhibition's varied and intense experiences.

Among the exhibited cars are: Ferrari, McLaren, Tyrell, Lotus, Panoz, Jaguar, Vanhall, Maserati, Jaguar, Audi and Alfa Romeo.

### Let's take a closer look at some of the most spectacular cars.

I am little boy.

Like nearly ever other grown up male when it comes to Racing Cars.

I have enjoyed the battle between Fernando Alonso from Spain and renowned German Michael Schumacher this year in the Formula One World Championship. Fernando Alonso drives a Renault F1 and he has won the recent World Championship.

Schumacher drives, as you might know, a red Ferrari.

On 21 October this year the final race took place at the Interlagos Circuit in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The race was quite exciting.

The odds were stacked against the Ferrari star from the outset after technical problems in qualifying left him only tenth on the grid.

Michael Schumacher however was flying.

Slamming in fastest sector times and slicing his way past back markers.

Smoke, oh no smoke.

Smoke from the engine of the Ferrari.



I was excited to see Michael Schumacher's red Ferrari at AROS Denmark on it's own steel podium.

I touched the Ferrari and knocked on it.

I was a little disappointed that it was all made of fiber.

I pushed it - it moved.

Amazing that anybody dears sit in these fragile light plastic boxes at speeds of up to 350 km per hour, that is 220 miles per hour.

In sane.

However the down force ensures they do not fly.

A curious fact is: At 160 km per hour, aerodynamically generated down force is equal to the weight of the car. In principle these Formula One monsters are capable of driving on the ceiling.



5 times Tom Kristensen from my country - Denmark won Le Mans in this Audi R8.

Tom Kristensen has won Le Mans 6 times.

Other great Le Mans winners are Derek Bell and Jacky Ickx.

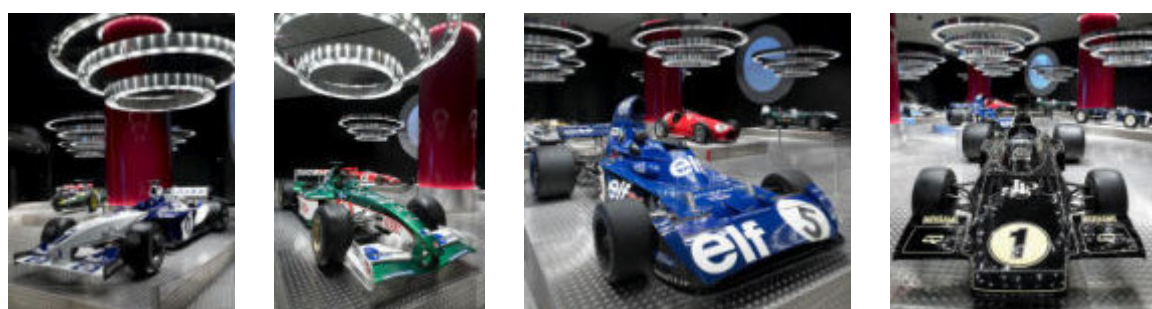
Le Mans is a 24 hour race once a year.

Danes that are not present at Le Mans in France are watching TV.

24 hours.

Enthusiastically.

This year the male population of Denmark expected a 7th Le Mans victory by Tom Kristensen. Unfortunately another Audi won.



On the 4 pictures above you can see some of the other cars.

Williams BMW, Jaguar R3, Tyrell 006 and Lotus 72.

Williams was the most successful team of the 1990s, it all ended when their engine partner Renault withdrew from the sport.

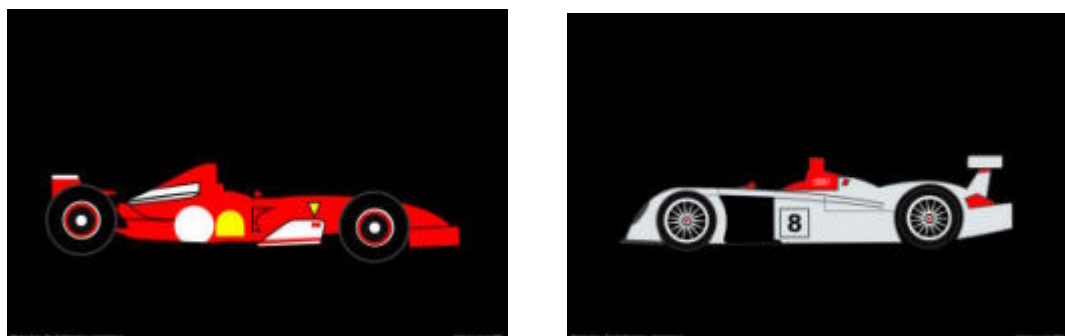
The Ford group's luxury mark Jaguar enjoys the Formula One glory. So far the Americans only have achieved sporadic success.

Tyrell emerged as one of the leading Formula One teams of the late 1960s. Team owner Ken Tyrell created cars more functional than elegant.

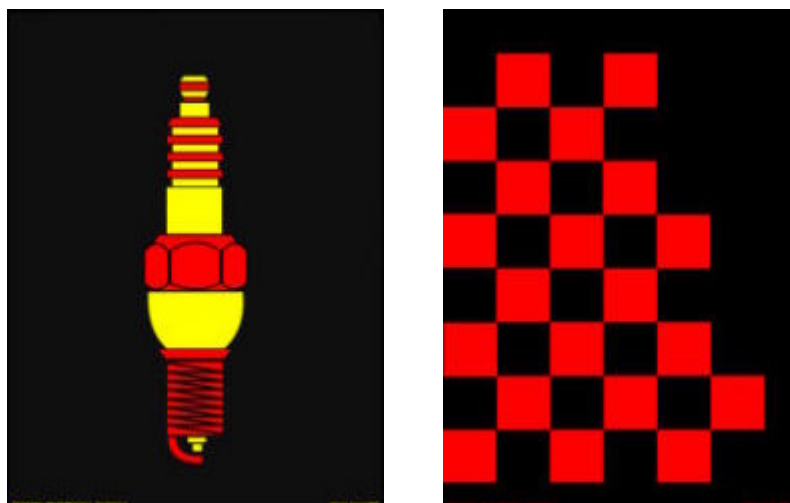
Emerson Fittipaldi from Sao Paulo, Brazil is a legend in Formula One Racing. In this black Lotus 72 he won the Formula One Championship.

#### And.

The cars are beautiful and this beauty inspired my to [some racing car motifs](#)



Michael Schumacher's red Ferrari and Tom Kristensen's grey Audi R8.



The heart of any engine, the sparking plug - the goal of any race, the checkered flag.

#### Thoughts.

The little boy inside me is extremely happy. Any racing car enthusiast wants to see and touch the real thing. The open minded art enthusiast says: How refreshing to see sports cars in an art museum. A welcome provocation. Fascinating presentation of sculptures on wheels!!! Interesting surroundings.

However.

My inner old boring and grumpy philosopher says: And so what? Now art museums have totally prostituted themselves and entered the entertainment industry. And then he wisely refers to Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Emperor's New Clothes".

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