

NC Museum of Art Presents *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s* and Related Events

Raleigh, N.C.—This fall the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) opens [*Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s*](#), featuring 14 cars and three motorcycles embodying the design characteristics of the art deco movement. The exhibition, guest curated by renowned automotive journalist Ken Gross, opens October 1, 2016, and runs through January 15, 2017.



The art deco period—from the 1920s to 1940s—is known for blending modern decorative arts and industrial design and is today synonymous with luxury and glamour. The cars from this era are no exception. While today manufacturers strive for economy and efficiency, during the art deco period elegance reigned supreme. With bold, sensuous shapes, hand-crafted details, and luxurious finishes, the cars and motorcycles in *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s* provide stunning examples of car design at its peak.

“These exquisite cars—several of which are truly one-of-a-kind—show what can happen when an automaker’s imagination takes the wheel,” says Gross. “There were absolutely no limitations or constraints placed on design, and it shows beautifully. This exhibition is a perfect demonstration of the intersection of art and cars, and the title *Rolling Sculpture* could not be more accurate.”

Highlights of *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s* include:

- **A one-of-a-kind aluminum-bodied Speedster hand-built for Edsel Ford** in 1934 when he was President of Ford Motor Company
- A Figoni and Falaschi **Delahaye "Salon de Paris" Roadster that was lost in Algeria for decades**, then recovered and restored in Switzerland
- **One of five surviving Stout Scarabs**, an aircraft-inspired, beetle-shaped Depression-era precursor of the modern minivan
- **The legendary Bugatti Aérolithe, a streamlined, magnesium-bodied sports coupe** that looks as though Jules Verne designed it
- The radical, fully enclosed **BMW R7 Concept motorcycle, hidden in a crate in 1935 and discovered 70 years later**
- **The Chrysler Imperial Airflow**, inspired by high-speed passenger trains—a car so advanced, it scared the public and nearly put Chrysler out of business
- **One of three surviving Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrows**, the art moderne star of the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress exposition
- **The last Ruxton of only 96 sold**, a stunning, low-roofed sedan with an unusual layered paint scheme by interior designer Joseph Urban

In the galleries the cars and motorcycles will be categorized and interpreted based on three themes: Art Deco, Streamlining, and Yesterday's Car of the Future. "These categories help bring historical and cultural context to the cars and motorcycles featured in the exhibition," says Caroline Rocheleau, NCMA coordinating curator of *Rolling Sculpture*. "Many people know a little something about the 1930s but might not be familiar with the era's automobiles. We hope visitors enjoy learning about the cars' connection to the art world, their innovative engineering and design, and the reasons these automobiles, hailed as the 'cars of the future,' are not seen on the road today."



For more information on the exhibition and to see images of all featured automobiles, visit ncartmuseum.org/rollingsculpture.

Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s
October 1, 2016–January 15, 2017
East Building, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery
Ticketed

Related Events

The Museum offers a variety of events related to the exhibition, including special events, lectures, workshops, and family activities. (December and January events to be announced at a later date.)

Special Events

***Rolling Sculpture* Opening Celebration**
Thursday, September 29, 7–9:30 pm
East Building
\$75 Members, \$100 Nonmembers

Step back in time to the era of Prohibition and the beginning of the New Deal and celebrate the opening of *Rolling Sculpture* with a reception featuring all things art deco. Don your black dress and pearls or a dapper suit and join us where luxury meets speed—and the result is truly art on wheels. Hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktail, live jazz, and much more while you enjoy an evening of classic cars.

Classic Car Meetup
Saturday, October 1, 8 am–noon
Blue Ridge Parking Lot

Calling all classic car lovers! Check out beautiful cars (or bring your own) while enjoying coffee and breakfast items from food trucks. Then head inside to see the *Rolling Sculpture* exhibition—opening an hour early at 9 am.

Mixed Media: Swig and Swing
Friday, October 14, 7 pm
East Building, Level A
\$30 Members, \$35 Nonmembers

This lively introduction to *Rolling Sculpture* includes jazz music in the NCMA's juice joint, where you'll taste Prohibition-era drinks and hear the stories behind each concoction. No worries if you're not up on your dance moves; you can sit back and enjoy swing dancers demonstrating steps from the early 20th century. Games round out an evening of edutainment.

Classic Cars, Classic Cocktails
Thursday, November 10, 7–9:30 pm
East Building
\$40 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

The 1920s roared with flappers, pearls, jazz, and high-end cocktails, but along came Prohibition, and the speakeasy was born. Take a step back to that time against the backdrop of the *Rolling Sculpture* exhibition and

enjoy cocktails of a bygone era, hors d'oeuvres, and extraordinary vintage automobiles. Ticket includes two cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and entrance to the exhibition; cash bar also available.

Lectures

Lunch and Lecture: The Installation of *Rolling Sculpture*

Friday, October 14, 11 am

East Building, SECU Auditorium

\$25 Members, \$30 Nonmembers

Just how do those big cars get in and out of the building? Chief Registrar Maggie Gregory describes the logistical challenges of transporting and installing the super-sized art deco vehicles in the exhibition.

Member Lecture: Yesterday's Car of the Future

Saturday, October 29, 10:30 am

East Building, SECU Auditorium

Free for members, \$7 Nonmembers

Guest curator Ken Gross, former director of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, tells stories of the cars in *Rolling Sculpture* and their former and current owners, all set against the backdrop of great design innovation in the United States and Europe.

Lecture: Defining Art Deco

Saturday, November 19, 2:30 pm

East Building, SECU Auditorium

Free; ticket required

Presented with North Carolina Modernist Houses

Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor, Architectural History, University of Virginia

The term "art deco" covers a variety of approaches and includes architecture, furniture, graphics, and automobiles. Stylistically it ranges from highly decorated buildings to streamlined shapes. This talk examines art deco's origins in the United States and Europe and then how American designers used it in buildings, posters, huge dams, and auto design. Reception follows lecture.

Films

The NCMA's fall series of Friday-night films features a lineup of art-deco themed screenings. Art deco, an exuberant style encompassing 1920s modernism, streamline moderne, international style, Bauhaus, and Russian constructivism, was a portmanteau term coined for a 1966 Musée des Arts Decoratifs retrospective of the 1925 Paris Exposition. Cinema designers of the 1920s and '30s enthusiastically embraced and popularized these related styles on screen, especially when depicting the wealthy, the corrupt, the cultured, and the glamorous woman of the world. Through the feminine kaleidoscopes of Busby Berkeley, the haunted Bauhaus mansion inhabited by Boris Karloff, and the stylized glamour of Marlene Dietrich or Joan Crawford, this fall film series jumps thrillingly from angle to curve.

See film schedule [here](#).

Studio Classes

Art Deco Jewelry

Saturday, September 24, 10 am–4 pm

East Building, Duke Energy Studio 1

\$60 Members, \$65 Nonmembers

Jewelry craftswoman Sarah Tector guides participants in creating jewelry inspired by the smooth, geometric shapes of art deco design. Supplies included. Register by Tuesday, September 20.

Alabaster Art Deco Style

Saturday and Sunday, October 22–23, 10 am–4:30 pm each day

East Building, Duke Energy Studio 1

\$165 Members, \$170 Nonmembers

Inspired by the flowing art deco designs and hood ornaments of *Rolling Sculpture*, award-winning sculptor Paris Alexander helps participants design, carve, and polish a lasting work of art in alabaster (a soft, translucent stone). Open to all levels and inspirations. All supplies included. Bring a bag lunch.

Book Club Discussions

NCMA Book Club Discussion: *From Ballots to Breadlines: American Women 1920–1940*
Friday, November 4, 6:30 pm
East Building, Duke Energy Studio 1
\$15 Members, \$17 Nonmembers (includes light snacks)

From Ballots to Breadlines: American Women 1920–1940, Sarah Jane Deutsch

The author, a history professor at Duke, joins the discussion on her book that details the political, cultural, and economic strides of women during the heyday of the art deco cars in *Rolling Sculpture*.

Youth and Family

***Rolling Sculpture* Opening Weekend Celebration**
Saturday, October 1, noon-3 pm
East Building and Museum Plaza (weather permitting)

Special pop-up art activities inspired by *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s*.

Family Fun Saturdays
Saturdays, 10 am–noon or 1–3 pm
East Building, Education Studios
\$5 Members, \$8 Nonmembers
Families with children ages 5–11

Gallery tour plus studio workshops for families. A different theme each time means there's always something new to discover. Please note: All participants (children and adults) must have a ticket. These popular workshops sell out quickly, so reserve your spot early.

October 15: Deco Derby Cars

Explore art deco design elements as you create and race your own pinewood derby car.

November 19: Deco the Walls

Explore art deco origins and motifs as you design and create a metallic mixed-media wall hanging.

School's Out Camp: Let's Get Rolling
Monday–Friday, October 10–14, 9 am–4:30 pm
\$250 Members, \$280 Nonmembers (per camp)
8 am Early drop-off, \$30 (per camp), 5:30 pm Late pickup, \$30 (per camp)

For ages 6–10. Whether you're tracked out, homeschooled, or just out of school, we've got a camp for you.

Start your engines and discover our special exhibition *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s*. You'll get your own wheels spinning by painting, drawing, building, and collaging your way to the finish line.

Teens and College Students

Teen Workshop: Stop Motion! Exploring Early Animation
Saturday, October 8, 10 am–4 pm
East Building
\$30 Members, \$35 Nonmembers (Registration is limited; enroll by the Tuesday before class.)

Drawing inspiration from *Rolling Sculpture*, participants explore the art deco movement, stop-motion animation techniques, abstraction, and pattern. All materials provided. Bring a bag lunch.

College Lecture and Tour: "Designed for Speed: Fashion and Car Culture in the 1920s and '30s."
Friday, November 4, 6–8 pm
East Building, SECU Auditorium

Art historian Victoria Pass illuminates the curious relationship between art deco-era fashion and car culture of the 1920s and '30s. The free lecture is followed by student-led tours of *Rolling Sculpture*. The exhibition is free for college students and instructors with valid ID, but stop by the Box Office for a ticket. Others may purchase exhibition tickets at the Box Office.

College Night 2016
Friday, November 18, 7–10 pm
East Building
Free with college ID

Prepare for a fabulous event featuring student projects, dance, fashion, and music inspired by *Rolling Sculpture*. College Night is organized by the College Advisory Council and supported by the Bastian Family Charitable Trust.

Free Friday Nights

Admission to *Rolling Sculpture* is free for college students on Fridays from 5 to 9 pm; stop at the Box Office and show your current ID.

Tours

Family Tours of *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s*

Half-hour tour for families with children age 6–12; free tour with paid exhibition ticket. Sign up that day; first come, first served. Meet docent on Level B at entrance to exhibition.

Saturday, October 1, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 2:30 pm
Saturday, October 2, 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm
Saturday, November 12, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 2:30 pm
Sunday, November 13, 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm

Deco Docent
Saturdays and Sundays, October 15–December 18, 1–3 pm
Exhibition ticket required

Have questions about a specific car? Want to know more about design in the 1930s and '40s? Ask a question, hear an anecdote, or just chat with an NCMA docent.

Ticketing Information

\$19 Adults
\$16 Seniors (65+), military, groups of 10+, college students with current ID
\$13 Youth 7–18
Free: Members (first visit), children 6 and under, college students on Friday nights 5–9 pm (with current ID)

Tickets now on sale!

About the Exhibition

Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. It is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for these exhibitions was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

- Participating sponsor: First Tennessee
- Supporting sponsor: Quintiles
- Media sponsor: Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc.

Image Captions (top to bottom)

1938 Talbot-Lago T-150C-SS Teardrop, Collection of J. W. Marriott, Jr.; Photo © 2016 Peter Harholdt

1930 Henderson KJ Streamline, Collection of Frank Westfall, Ner-A-Car Museum, Syracuse, N.Y.; Photo © 2016 Peter Harholdt

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.