

Roger

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Since then, Lusty has held a number of commercial art jobs — he has designed billboards, illustrated advertisements, even laid out the cover of Harlequin Romance novels.

But then the landscape for commercial artists began to transform. "When the industry made the change to computer graphics," recalls Lusty, "I decided it was time for a change."

For the next few years, he worked in various jobs, including assembly line work and autobody repair and painting.

As a youngster, his appreciation for cars and motorcycles went far beyond drawing. His older brother David largely fuelled this passion.

"When I was in my teens we used to go to the drag races in his '69 Chevelle SS," Lusty vividly recalls. "I was responsible for keeping the car clean and was also the photographer. I still remember sneaking onto the track Sunday mornings to take photos of the local racers doing burnouts."

Like many artists, Lusty's need to create continued to churn, and with no commercial assignments to fulfil, he quickly found himself painting what he loved.

What began as a hobby has since developed into a full-time career. Out of his home studio, Roger's Auto Works has produced some amazing recreations of local car-show favourites.

"Whether it's a chopped '32 Ford Deuce, a Hemi Cuda, a '57 Chevy Pickup, or a VW Beetle, I always put the

same effort and enthusiasm into every painting," offered Lusty. "Every car has distinct features and I love them all."

When someone commissions Lusty to paint a portrait of their prized ride, the process can take up to 50 hours. Lusty relies on photographs, either submitted by the owner or those he has taken himself, to ensure absolute accuracy.

Working in watercolour, acrylic and pencil, Lusty creates every painting by hand — without the aid of a computer. His main areas of interest include portraits of classic cars, hot rods, motorcycles and all forms of auto racing.

Lusty has been promoting his business at local car shows and cruise events for the past three summers. Often accompanied by his wife Christine, Lusty enjoys attending local shows and shines and hanging out with folks

who share his appreciation for the car hobby.

In his own garage, Lusty is presently working on his 1957 Chevrolet step side truck. He bought the truck in Saskatoon back in 1972 and has had it ever since.

At last weekend's Rodarama, Al Bodnarchuk's 1932 Ford three-window coupe won best-in-show honours. As part of his prize package, Bodnarchuk will receive an original Lusty portrait of his wild deuce.

Lusty also displays and donates commissioned paintings at a number of events throughout the year, including the popular Sunday night cruises at the Canad Inns Transcona.

Orders are typically taken throughout the summer and he works hard to promise a turnaround time of six to

eight weeks.

"Many of the paintings I do are given as gifts," added Lusty, "so I always respect the timeline and deliver when promised."

His love for all things motorized truly stands out in his artwork. Lusty's attention to detail is spectacular and he definitely has a car guy's eye.

Is he doing what he loves? You better believe it.

"The best part is a client's reaction to the paintings," added Lusty. "It has ranged from tears to absolute disbelief — I'm usually just as excited as they are when they pick the painting up."

See Roger on the web at

➤ www.rogers-auto-art.ca

➤ paul.williamson@freepress.mb.ca