

Porsche in Art

The 356 era is well represented in the automotive art world this year. The two sculptors featured here are both working on projects that will feature Porsches from the 1950's.

Paul Nesse was one of those kids who had a natural attraction to cars. Growing up on the plains of central Montana he could identify every make and model. Watching the tourists pass on their way to Glacier Park was an opportunity to



see the more unusual American autos and occasionally, different types of "foreign" cars. Also inspired by Frederick Remington's western sculptures, he studied art in college and soon thereafter, blended the two passions in a sculpture of Donald Healey and an Aus-

tin Healey. His works in the years since have ranged from Bugattis to Cobras, with several Porsches, including the John Wyer Gulf 917. That piece was shown at the 1990 Porsche Parade in Monterey. Over the last decade he has developed a reputation as one of the world's premier automotive artists.

A former 356 owner with a lasting enthusiasm for the marque, Paul has been commissioned to produce a 1/8 scale 550 Spyder. The bronze will be presented to the Porsche museum and will be on permanent display there. A 1/24 scale reproduction of the piece will be presented annually in America by Porsche to the winner of the vintage racing Vasek Polak trophy. The sculpture will be on display at the Concours Italiana at Pebble Beach during the Monterey Historics. It will be presented on Sunday after the vintage races at Laguna Seca.

An edition of about 18 similar 550 bronzes will also be made in the future,

available in natural bronze or a polychrome finish.



J. Paul Nesse

Paul Nesse discusses the details on the original clay model for the 550.

Jeff Gamble's Porsche background is extensive and impressive. Building models as a kid in the fifties, he also attended Jalopy races with his dad and later, some of the earliest sports car races held in the Tucson area. That interest in cars and competition would lead to ownership of several Porsches, the first of which was a 1955 Speedster.

Along with driving and racing the cars, he and some friends started the Southern Arizona chapter of PCA in 1967. Jeff remains the sole charter member, and is still active as an organizer in club events. He has also been active in Registry and local 356 gatherings in the area; his blue Roadster is well-known at concours and driving events.

Building a career as a dental technician, he had the skills and his own laboratory in which to create small Speedster models out of dental plaster. Several molded copies were painted in different colors to help him visualize what would look best on his full-size car.

"I found out other people liked them as much as I did," he says. He produced and sold over 300 more.

He took the next step in 1989: bronze. As in fine jewelry production, the models are cast using the lost-wax method. While bronze has an attractive appearance, Jeff's finishes often involve polishing to a mirror-like brightness. Several of his pieces have been presented this way, including "Duel at Avus" (below) showing the pre-war Mercedes and Auto Union streamliners at the famous Berlin banked track.

Jeff's latest is a series of the original Porsche roadster (right) with the figures of Ferdinand and Ferry Porsche, based on the famous photo from Gmünd. Look for his work on display at both Meadowbrook Hall and Monterey this year.

Jeff Gamble

