MoMA ANNOUNCES AUTOMANIA, AN EXHIBITION EXPLORING 20TH-CENTURY CAR CULTURE THAT FEATURES SEVEN CARS ALONG WITH RELATED OBJECTS FROM THE MUSEUM’S COLLECTION

NEW YORK, February 11, 2020—The Museum of Modern Art announces Automania, an exhibition that will investigate the conflicted feelings—compulsion, fixation, desire, and rage—that developed in response to cars and car culture in the 20th century. On view from June 28 through September 7, 2020, this two-part exhibition will consist of presentations in the third-floor Philip Johnson Galleries and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, showcasing a total of seven cars from the Museum’s collection. Taking its name from the 1964 Oscar-nominated animation by Halas and Batchelor, Automania will examine the car as a modern industrial product, transportation innovator, and style icon, as well as the generator of fatalities, traffic-choked environments, and ecological disaster in the oil age. Automania is organized by Juliet Kinchin, Curator; Paul Galloway, Collection Specialist; and Andrew Gardner, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Architecture and Design.

Automania will explore the ways in which motor vehicles reshaped how people lived, worked, and enjoyed themselves over the course of the 20th century, and the continuing positive and negative imprint on the design and organization of today’s built environment. The third-floor gallery presentation will bring together varied materials largely drawn from the Museum’s collection, including cars, car parts, architectural models, films, photographs, posters, paintings, and sculptures. The wide range of works on view will include Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s 1898 print L’Automobiliste, Lily Reich’s 1930s designs for a tubular-steel car seat, photographs of American car factories (c. 1930–32) by Margaret Bourke-White, a Volkswagen Beetle (designed 1938), Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1955 drawings for a “Road Machine,” Orange Car Crash Fourteen Times (1963) by Andy Warhol, Jorge Rigamonti’s 1966–70 photocollages illustrating dystopic views of oil extraction in Venezuela, and a 1990 Ferrari Formula1 Racing Car.

Automania will also invite visitors to take an up-close view of objects that Le Corbusier (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret) compared to ancient Greek temples and Roland Barthes provocatively likened to “the great Gothic cathedrals...the supreme creation of an era,” with a presentation of five cars in the Sculpture Garden. Included in this display will be the recently acquired Citroën DS 23 sedan (designed 1954–67) and a Porsche 911 coupé (1965), both of which will be on view at MoMA for the first time.

“Cars have reimagined mobility, connecting us across great distances at ever greater speed, but this increased freedom and economic empowerment have come at the expense of tremendous human suffering and environmental damage,” says Juliet Kinchin. “Throughout the 20th century the car has inspired innumerable examples of innovation, social
transformation, and critical debate among designers, architects, artists, filmmakers, and photographers.”

A film program in the Debra and Leon Black Family Film Center will accompany the presentation of *Automania*.

**SPONSORSHIP:**

![Allianz](image)

The exhibition is made possible by Allianz, MoMA’s partner for design and innovation.


Major contributions to the Annual Exhibition Fund are provided by the Estate of Ralph L. Riehle, GROW @ Annenberg, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Brett and Daniel Sundheim, Karen and Gary Winnick, The Marella and Giovanni Agnelli Fund for Exhibitions, Clarissa Alcock and Edgar Bronfman, Jr., Agnes Gund, and Oya and Bülent Eczacıbaşı.

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, moma.org. Hours: Daily, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Open until 9:00 p.m. Fridays and the first Thursday of each month. Museum Admission: $25 adults; $18 seniors 65 years and over with I.D. and visitors with disabilities; $14 full-time students with current I.D. Free admission for Members and children 16 and under. Admission to MoMA is free for all visitors every Friday evening, 5:30–9:00 p.m., during UNIQLO Free Friday Nights. Tickets include admission to special exhibitions, films, and MoMA PS1.