

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A FOOD STUFF FOR THE PANTRY

LIARS

"Not Just Another Model Car Club!"



EST. 1991

MODEL CAR BRIEFS

LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY

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2022 LIARS ANNUAL AUCTION DELAYED UNTIL OCTOBER!



We are about to commence our 32nd year as a Club; let's hope that we all stay healthy during these COVID-19 derivatives & beyond - presumed to be crisis and that we can still attain some measure of prosperity. Then perhaps we can build a new Club display... (Unpaid LIARS political announcement carried forward for another year!) MCB Contributors: Steve Blake, Paul Drago, & articles that Dr.V copied...

... Hopefully you all will add your monthly contributions (as part of your 2022 New Year's Resolutions!)

LIARS Web Page replacement thanks to Pauline & John <https://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com/>

The LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY (L.I.A.R.S.) Model Car Briefs is dedicated to bringing you the best and most up to date information about our great hobby of model building

Good day to my fellow 2022 LIARS, perhaps previous members, friends of, etc. I apologized for being late this month! I was hoping to receive inputs! Oh Well...let's more on...

Paul "The Hammer" routed the cover picture! During his recent vacation, he visited shops that had in his words, really cool stuff! He especially liked this "book case" but thought it was too big - Dr.V's Trouble (ok, wife) might have experienced "Are you kidding" moment if I returned home with it!

Well Dr. V does have 3 collectible 1:1 cars on his property, along with a 1926 Buick radiator/chrome shell and 2 lighted '26 Buick headlights displayed in his basement (previously routed to you all.) Oh Well

Now to our VP

Hammer noted he has another interest besides the obvious cars, models, etc. and that's FIREWORKS!

So Hammer attended the annual 2022 Pyrotechnics Guild International Fireworks convention (PGI) in Newton IOWA. It was held at the IOWA International Speedway (A week prior there was an INDY car event). The PGI has grown from 600 members in 1969 to over 5,000 today, (so a major speedway or fairgrounds is needed to host such an event for one full week.)

But this is the MCB, so in keeping with the spirit of our club, I'd like to report on the entire car and model related things, I have experienced during my trip.

During the trip (yes I drove), I passed by many racetracks, some in PA, and others across Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana then through Iowa: including midget and cart tracks, Indianapolis motor speedway, short tracks and even bicycle and motorcycle tracks.

There was a billboard for the national sprint car museum (about an hour's drive from where we stayed) but the granddaddy of all was the **IOWA SPEEDWAY**. We spent a good part of opening day scouting out a prime spot for photography.

The town of Newton has old stores and shops: one of which has 3 floors of antiques: including die casts, Tonka and Buddy L trucks, metal car banks, Texaco trucks, HO slot cars, and matchbox and tootsie toy cars. (Dr.V: so where are Paul's Pics?)



The second floor was primarily automotive related including vintage car parts (Dr.V: any REO &/or 20's Buick goodies?), and a unique bookcase designed around a real vintage car (see cover). Paul picked up a few vintage drag racing magazines with articles about the original Hurst Hemi.



Underglass, Dyno Don Nicholson's SOHC Comet, and the rarest of all: A full pictorial of the

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(only) Cadillac Eldorado Funny car. These will be valuable reference photos when I build models of these cars (*Dr.V: to share with you.*)

Along the way there were a few nice vintage cars in parking lots, and (one day) there were scores of street rods and pre-war cars along the interstate. I'm thinking there must've been a car show in the area. We also saw scores of bikers, many in large groups because Sturgis week is approaching. NASCAR is currently evaluating the PGI event, and depending on revenues, damages, and overall report of the event we might be invited back next year. I'm already planning on where to stay and places to visit - because there's always time for cars! Paul Dr.V Paul routed a picture of a few vintage drag magazines... (*Sorry Trouble will not allow Dr.V to expand his interests...the nerve of some folks!*)



Your out West now...so Paul routed



After all is said and done, LIARS enjoy model &/or 1:1 real (along with associated vehicle documentation!)

Now to the Aug '22 MCB real theme! DIORAMAS

This month's MCB flow is somewhat different. Your Dr.V Editor spin is that perhaps the LIARS members &/or visitors need to reflect on what you/others have done WRT displaying models!



Paul routed a different diorama type.

For year's Dr. V has routed MCB pictures that he rec'd from fellow LIARS, to which he occasionally posted other goodies from the Internet!

- Dr.V still requests a volunteer to document these goodies...Please volunteer!

In the interim this MCB marginally covers 3 main players

- Michael Paul Smith (may he joy his afterlife)
- Ken Rouet
- Anthony Schmidt

Plus current LIARS starting with Rich Argus...Then there was Dr.V who had to replace his dryer...realized he had to temporally remove numerous basement display cases to accommodate dryer removal/replacement! His youngest son is still mumblely!

Working backwards:

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2022/08/08/anthony-schmidt-model-classic-model-car-photography-feature>

These amazingly realistic pictures of car models come from a 14-year-old's unique perspective

By Jim Koscs on Aug 8th, 2022

Like many 14 year-olds, Anthony Schmidt loves cars. Unlike most early teens, and probably adults for that matter, Anthony's infatuation covers classic models spanning seven times as many years as he has been alive. Seemingly born with a picture-window view into automobile history, Anthony

captures his visions in photographs that have mesmerized hundreds of thousands of admirers who follow him on social media.

Anthony Schmidt's Realistic Car Model Photography

By Mike Austin on Aug 7th, 2022 at 6:00 am



There is a twist in the story—or two, actually. Newcomers to Anthony's social media may first be surprised to learn that the cars in the photos are scale models. They may also be surprised to learn that this gifted young photographer was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was seven years old.



Anthony lives in Woodinville, Washington, a suburb about 20 miles northeast of Seattle. He began taking photos of his model cars when he was six, his mother, Ramona Schmidt tells Hemmings. While just a boy having fun with an iPhone and his cars, he inadvertently taught himself the trick of forced-perspective photography. Depending on camera positioning, a forced-perspective photograph can create the optical illusion of the subject being the same scale as its backdrop, or of the subject being much larger or smaller. With his photos, mostly

taken at outdoor locations, Anthony matches the scale of the backdrop to that of his model cars. "He was amazed at how he could make them look full-sized," Ramona says. "He's a natural when it comes to his sense of scale and perspective."



Intrigued and pleased by what he saw, Anthony kept at it. His skills progressed and, when he was nine, his mother shared some of his photos on social media. The strong reaction prompted her to start Instagram page, which she says quickly grew to 3,000 followers. It recently showed 46,000. Anthony's TikTok has nearly 600,000 followers, and his Facebook page nearly 200,000. A private Facebook group created for his supporters two years ago, Friends of Anthony Schmidt Photography, has 140,000 members.

The Spark

As it does for many car enthusiasts, the spark of an automotive crush came early for Anthony. "It's common for people with autism to have a special interest. In his case, it's cars," Ramona says of her son. "The first words he ever spoke were the makes and models of cars, and by age three he could name them all. He soon started collecting models."

It was only a year after his photo hobby began that Anthony received his ASD diagnosis. "People often ask why we share his diagnosis along with his photography," Ramona says. "I answer that these photos would not exist if it weren't for his autism. It's what gives Anthony his hyper focus and attention to details. If we didn't share his diagnosis, it would be extremely dismissive to the hidden talents that sometimes come along with autism." Anthony, his mother explains, also shows a photographic memory for real cars. "As a three year-old, we noticed it was not just the car insignias he was reading, but also the shapes of cars. A couple of years ago, a New York detective reached out to us with a photo of a blurry crime scene photo. It had his men stumped for a couple of weeks. Anthony was able to just glance at it and tell us the make, model and year. The crime was solved, and an arrest was

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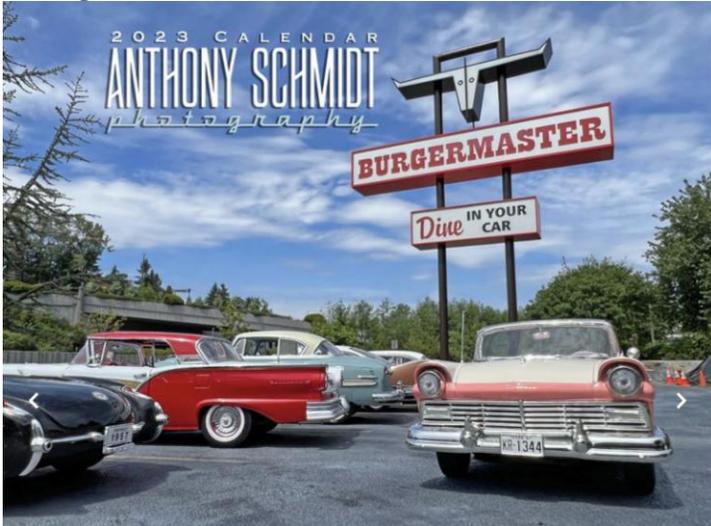
made.” (The car was a Mercury Montego from the early 2000s.)

3,000 Cars

As Anthony’s photo skills have grown, so has his collection. Today, he has about 3,000 model cars, many of which were gifted by fans. He prefers the classics. In addition to his models, Anthony has already started on a collection of real cars, including a 1957 Ford Custom 300 gifted by a fan, and a 1959 Studebaker Silver Hawk purchased with profits from his calendar sales. “Anthony loves all cars, but he complains that modern cars lack the style of the past,” Ramona says. “He considers himself a collector, and the more detailed the better, like AutoArt, Danbury Mint, and Franklin Mint. He prefers to shoot 1:24 or 1:18-scale. Anything smaller doesn’t capture the details he needs to make the image look realistic.” Danbury Mint and Franklin Mint were also the preferred models of Michael Paul Smith, a forced-perspective photographer who gained renown for his photos about a decade ago. His Flickr site had garnered more than 100 million views. Ramona says she and her son only learned about Michael after he died in 2018. “Anthony was saddened to hear that he had passed away. I am sure if the two of them had met it would have been magical,” Ramona says.

The Artist at Work

When planning photo shoots, Anthony enjoys matching the era of the cars to the background. He appears to have an innate sense of connecting settings to cars, and vice versa.



“I’ve never seen someone so young have such a good understanding of history and what is era-specific,” Ramona says. “Anthony isn’t an avid reader, because he has dyslexia. The way he learns is quite different from what you’d expect, and sometimes I wonder where he learns these things. He was very

interested to learn that Henry Ford was also dyslexic. He’s somewhat of a walking encyclopedia when it comes to car-related facts.” She explains that for Anthony, sometimes the location inspires the shoot, as the Burgermaster drive-through in Bellevue, Washington, recently did.



“He planned it out for months and waited for the weather to be perfect. He brought cars that fit with the theme of when the restaurant opened back in the Fifties. Other times, he will start with the model car, and then we will drive around looking for a location that matches the theme.” When the rainy, gray weather that blankets western Washington from fall through spring hinders outdoor work, Anthony shoots scenes at home using custom-made dioramas from two Tennessee artists, Philip Crews and Andrew Roderick, among others. “They enjoy seeing what Anthony comes up with and sometimes donate their time and supplies to make it even more special for him,” Ramona says. “The latest one donated by Andrew is a little workshop complete with pink insulation and every detail you’d see in a real-life garage.”



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Young Publisher

Anthony's social media followers have made one thing very clear: They love his work, want to see more, and are willing to buy it. A Kickstarter campaign raised \$45,000 to publish his first book, *Small Cars, Big Inspiration*, which Ramona says has so far sold more than 3,000 copies. His second book, *Shifting Perspectives*, is available for presale at AnthonyRyanSchmidt.com. "So many opportunities have opened up to him," she says. Anthony's first solo art gallery show in Spokane in April led to an article in *People* and a shout-out on Twitter from Apple CEO Tim Cook for his creative use of an iPhone. In July, Anthony enjoyed an all-expense-paid trip to Midwest Dream Car Collection in Manhattan, Kansas, where he gave a presentation. Ramona says the Miles Nadal Dare to Dream Automobile Museum in Toronto has extended an invitation to fly the family up to Canada to tour the collection of 140 rare cars.

Family Affair

Anthony loves his vocation, loves to work, and gets a lot of support from family. "It is hard to keep up with Anthony," Ramona says. "He takes photos daily and works for hours in his workshop, painting and modifying the cars. He calls me his assistant. I help him with lighting, and together we build the platforms for his photo shoots. I drive him to his locations and help him carry all his props and gear. Some photoshoots can last up to three hours, not including driving time." Anthony's grandmother and Ramona co-manage the young artist's considerable social media presence and also package and ship his calendars and books. "Anthony likes to involve himself in every step of the business, and it's been a great experience for him to learn about how to be an entrepreneur."

ARTICLE COMMENTS FOLLOW

Yes, it is a shame that Michael Paul Smith passed before Anthony could meet him. Michael's work is an entirely different level because he often made the buildings and sets from scratch. But the forced perspective is the same and Anthony will have many more years to refine his technique.

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2018/11/27/modeler-michael-paul-smith-permanently-moves-to-elgin-park-at-age-67>

Other comments: Smith was an absolute genius not just photographing cars but creating the buildings

(both outside and inside) as well as making and adding accessories and other items as well.

Anthony is at the beginning of a long and creative road!

- Indeed, Michael Paul Smith left us too soon. That reminds me of another modeler then Curbside Classic once mentioned named Ken Rouet who worked mainly with miniatures from the 1970s.
- <https://www.curbsideclassic.com/blog/miniatures-toys/the-amazing-miniature-streets-of-p-rouet/>

Being an ardent fan of Michael Paul Smith and being greatly saddened at his passing, I feel here we have a young man who can fill the void left by Michael!

My car obsession with cars surfaced as soon as I could talk. My Dad was into photography and guns. At about 8 or 9 those two interests collided on a much more primitive scale. At 14 the models and cameras took a backseat for my quest to get my first car. I already knew it would take a couple of years to find a car my Dad would approve.

I probably did these when I was 10-12.

<https://flic.kr/p/tpYgwt>

<https://flic.kr/p/uju3f3>

<https://flic.kr/p/u5nkNB>

<https://flic.kr/p/umptnY>

Nice article...glad to see young people who are interested in old cars...this reminds me of the articles about Mark Smith who was the "Mayor" of Elgin Park. He also used the forced perspective technique in his photographs of old car models...

Incredible. Thanks, Jim, for the story. Anthony is a remarkable young man and a gifted photographer. Best of everything to you, Anthony.

Thank you and Hemmings for bringing this to us.

Terrific article, love these kinds of stories. Anthony is an inspiration to so many, and his talent seems to know no bounds. I thoroughly enjoyed looking at each photo in this article, and went back and looked a second and third time. Any kid who loved building models would always imagine their finished product in a setting that was personal to them. Anthony takes it several levels up and defines the word artistry in his hobby....and career. Thanks for a wonderful story.

Reply IF Studebaker had made the CAR look like 3 days ago

Back in the (Early 60's I recall a magazine article about a young Italian boy who made model cars

PERFECTLY. First as a hobby and of such quality that he soon made them to order. and as I recall he made his own parts. (If you remember, when you submitted a model to GM back then, they gave you tires for it.) Most of us are just unable to THINK of such matters.

Rick Hanmore I was familiar with some of Anthony's work, but I found this in-depth article very informative and entertaining. I worked for twelve years at The Danbury Mint in product development for their auto replicas. I recognize quite a few of the cars that I personally helped to create in Anthony's photos. My pleasure in seeing them is two-fold. First, it is very gratifying to know that the cars were detailed and finished well enough to pass for "real" cars when put in realistic settings. That was my job. Secondly, and actually more exciting for me, is to see a young man of his age with a passion for all types of antique and collector automobiles. He is not only extremely talented, with a fascinating ability to work with perspective and composition...he is also not afraid to put the models from his collection to use to create art, rather than keeping them untouched in a curio cabinet. Bravo, young man! You have a new fan!

Fascinating story of child prodigy, and the persons involved in this journey are truly blessed in witnessing such talent. Thanks for sharing this; please continue Anthony's story as he develops.

I've been following Anthony for a year or two now. I am enthralled by his pictures and I can see his talent grow by the day. I talk about Anthony to people all the time. My wife calls him my other grandson.

I remember reading about Michael Paul Smith in Hemmings a few years back and was profoundly stimulated at his exacting craft. I did make a small diorama for my tribute 1917 Mack AC Bulldog at the time for a model car show, inspired by his work.

I am blown away by Anthony and his talent! It's the old story, enjoy your work, enjoy your life!

Thank you for this story. He has a real gift and is so fortunate to have found a passion that his age. I have many students with neurological differences who never discover a passion and struggle in college. I look forward to following him on social media.

Cudos to this young man and his extraordinary talent and imagination! This is incredible work.

Being a model builder and collector of sixty plus years, I can really appreciate this work.

Congratulations Young Man, I wish you all the prosperity and success in the world, with your crafts.

I, too, began building model kits in the early 'fifties. I really do appreciate what Anthony is doing with his photography; wish I could learn it, at age 77! I'm too busy restoring a 1:1 scale car, and finishing up my kit collection from c. 1960

"He considers himself a collector, and the more detailed the better, like AutoArt, Danbury Mint, and Franklin Mint. He prefers to shoot 1:24 or 1:18-scale."

The models are pre-built from the sources listed in the article. He does do some disassembly to repaint and age them, with rust and paint wear, or to change the color, for some of his shoots. He has also added undercarriage lighting for a few of the more modern vehicles.

One sentence stood out, for me, "Anthony loves all cars, but he complains that modern cars lack the style of the past," Ramona says. Anthony has summed it all up in eight words. "... modern cars lack the style of the past."

As a "retired" photographer, I was impressed even more when I saw that he was using a cellphone, not an SLR like a Canon or Nikon, or a traditional reflex like a Rolleiflex. I can also identify with his fondness for cars. I do too!

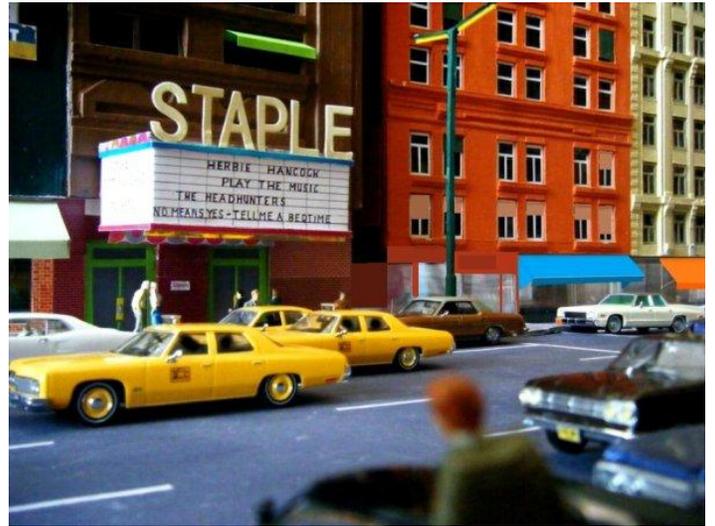
[The Amazing Miniature Streets Of Ken Rouet](#)

[Paul Niedermeyer](#)



(First posted 12/6/2015) Ken Rouet left these in the comment section of a CC. I was quite amazed, and turned them into a post. Ken later left a number of more links to more photos, which are in several

comments he left near the end of the comment section below. He dubbed the city "New-Ark".



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Pretty amazing...



Now to Elgin Park: An Ideal American Town

The imagined city of Elgin Park, a magically realistic evocation of a midcentury American town, has captured the hearts of millions of web visitors and now appears in book form.

You won't find the town of Elgin Park on a map, but you will find it all over the web and in the media.

Called an Internet phenomenon by the New York Times, Michael Paul Smith's Flickr site has received over 20 million hits since he first posted his convincing yet dreamlike photographs of an imaginary town, inspired by the small Pennsylvania one he grew up in.

Viewers of all ages from across the world respond to the memories and feelings evoked by his perfectly executed miniature street scenes with model vintage cars, which are photographed outdoors against actual backgrounds.

Without digital manipulation, Smith creates wondrously realistic scenes, which are beautifully reproduced in this exquisite volume. Gail Ellison, a longtime colleague of the artist, explains Smith's ingenious methods and also uncovers the themes of his art.



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Michael Paul Smith in 2010 with a model bungalow and model cars in Elgin Park, the miniature imaginary town he created and photographed.

One of the assorted jobs Michael Paul Smith had on his way to unexpected fame was as a mail carrier.

“Everything you do, you will learn from it,” he said, “and you will use it later on in life.”

The delivery rounds he made proved useful when, years later, he became founder, chief architect and mayor of Elgin Park, surely the most visited fake town in the United States. The town, frozen in a mid-20th-century haze, exists only in the carefully staged photographs that Mr. Smith made with a cheap camera, vintage model miniature cars, tiny hand-built sets and a keen sense of perspective.

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2018/11/27/modeler-michael-paul-smith-permanently-moves-to-elgin-park-at-age-67>

Modeler Michael Paul Smith permanently moves to Elgin Park at age 67

Most modelers go about their work in private, fussy about the minutiae of their work but hardly cognizant of where the work fits into broader questions of purpose and meaning. Michael Paul Smith, who died earlier this month shortly before his 68th birthday, knew exactly why he had to create the 1/24-scale town of Elgin Park and why it resonated with so many people around the world.

"It's not just my little fantasy," he said in a [documentary on Elgin Park \(https://vimeo.com/116577464\)](https://vimeo.com/116577464) in support of a book release a few years ago. "I'm also documenting the 20th century in a way."

But not the war-and-politics view on the 20th century that most history books take. Instead, it's a slower-paced view, one that replaces the ills of the modern world with mid-century aesthetics, from the architecture to the flights of fantasy to the cars that started the whole venture. And it's a view that acted as a form of therapy for Smith.

"I knew from kindergarten that I was gay," he admitted in the documentary. "I've come into this reality from a slightly different angle." He endured years of bullying growing up in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, where he faced few prospects other than working in the local steel mills after high school. He said in later years he battled depression and drug use, and survived multiple suicide attempts.

But he also found solace in the combination of art and automobiles from an early age. As he recounted

in a [2010 New York Times profile on his work](#), his father gave him his first model car kit for his 12th birthday. After he completed that, he decided to enter the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild contest for a number of years. Though he never won the contest, he came to appreciate automotive design and would later put those skills to use in modelmaking.

His career path to modelmaking, however, took a circuitous route. His family moved to Worcester, Massachusetts, when he was 17, and, after high school, he took a certificate program at the Worcester Art Museum, which led to gigs illustrating textbooks and designing fashion store and museum displays. Over the next few decades, he worked as a cabinet maker, bartender, mailman, wallpaper hanger, painter, and photographer before landing jobs as an advertising art director and modelbuilder for an architectural engineering firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Then, in about 2008, he decided to do something with the 300 or so 1/24-scale models he'd accumulated over the previous 20 years, most of them from Danbury Mint, according to The New York Times. "Recreating his boyhood memories seemed a good place to start," Jim Koscs wrote for the article.



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Article from [hemmings.com](https://www.hemmings.com)

Modeler Michael Paul Smith permanently moves to Elgin Park a...

Most modelers go about their work in private, fussy about the minutiae of their work but hardly cognizant of where the work fits into broader questions of purpose and meaning. Michael Paul Smith...



So Smith decided to start photographing the cars against appropriately scaled building facades that he built from scratch. What set his photographs apart, however, was the careful attention to detail Smith paid to lighting and perspective as he placed his dioramas outside, among the telephone poles, power lines, and vegetation surrounding his home in Winchester, Massachusetts. The photographs -- especially when Smith applied sepia-toned or Kodachrome filters to them -- appeared all too realistic, thanks to Smith's talents. Smith never meant to deceive with the photographs, however: He often posted numerous [behind-the-scenes pictures of his photo locations and setups](https://www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/07/10/the-oldest-trick-in-the-special-effect-book-go-behind-the-scenes-with-michael-paul-smith/).

[\(https://www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/07/10/the-oldest-trick-in-the-special-effect-book-go-behind-the-scenes-with-michael-paul-smith/\)](https://www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/07/10/the-oldest-trick-in-the-special-effect-book-go-behind-the-scenes-with-michael-paul-smith/)

The oldest trick in the special effects book: Go behind the scenes with Michael Paul Smith

By [Daniel Strohl](#) on Jul 10th, 2015

If, by now, you haven't seen the works of Michael Paul Smith, you haven't been paying attention. The prolific model maker who makes his die-cast car

dioramas look stunningly real has been profiled in the *New York Times*, on ABC News, and [featured several times here](#). He's even released a book compiling some of his many scenes from [Elgin Park](#), the fictional town with all sorts of weird stuff going on.

For his second book, which he wrote with Gail K. Ellison, Smith takes us behind the scenes, showing us just how he creates such lifelike scenes. At the same time, he introduces us to his legions of fans, some of whom have over time become remixers, contributors, and inspiration for Smith's work. With the publisher's permission, we've included an excerpt from the book's introduction.

His first book, Elgin Park: An Ideal American Town, brought more visitors. Many of them asked questions; they found it hard to believe that these weren't period photographs found in an attic. Michael reconfirmed that his work isn't done in Photoshop: "I place the models on a base, then align them with the background at the correct distance so everything is in the proper scale. It's the oldest trick in the special effects book from the 1920s."

After a photoshoot, rather than doctoring his images, he looks for the photograph that best conveys a sense of place, time, and emotion. "When I do a photoshoot," he says, "It takes a couple of days for me to go through and find shots that have that certain something. I might add a filter or frame, but nothing is brought into the photo - no sunsets or other elements. The last thing I want is for someone to call me a fake."

To this day, Michael's followers continue to be amazed at his skills, struggling to figure out how he fools them time and again. He might not have originated the technique he employs, but as his modeling skills and photographic eye become ever more refined - and interact with his knowledge of midcentury America and his capacity to invent believable stories about the residents of Elgin Park - people all over the world find themselves immersed in an imaginary reality that seems not only kinder and gentler, but in many ways vastly preferable to the life surrounding them in the 21st century.

Elgin Park: Visual Memories of Midcentury America at 1/24th Scale offers a longitudinal perspective on Michael's work, while illuminating his creative process and techniques, including mistakes and decision making. In looking behind the scenes, the book celebrates an unanticipated phenomenon: the

birthing and sustaining of a community where millions gather to appreciate Michael's talent while sharing their own stories - a benefit of the Internet in the 21st century.

All the while, Michael, child of the '50s, still doesn't own a cell phone, television set, or real-life car; nor does he heat his house to more than 57 degrees in midwinter.

Most of the modeling is done in Michael's retro kitchen, which looks very much like it was transported from the '40s and '50s. As he says in his [photostream](#), "No power tools, just old-school saws, drills, X-acto blades, and sanding blocks." At nine by ten feet, the room is very cozy.

(Ironically, for somebody whose photos never failed to include his model cars, Smith didn't drive and instead shuttled his dioramas around town using a handcart.)

Though the scenes he photographed in some way reflected Sewickley, they also started to suggest a more idealized place -- one that was more welcoming and more accessible than his boyhood home. Smith named it [Elgin Park](#), and [the photographs he posted to Flickr](#) soon became viral fodder, racking up millions of views at a time and making a sensation out of Smith.

"I'm a recluse, so recognition is tough for me," Smith said in the documentary. But he also recognized that Elgin Park could help him fulfill his purpose of making a difference in the world by creating a place in which he and others could be comfortable and creative.

"I created Elgin Park so anyone can be there," he said. "Elgin Park doesn't need the bad. It's never a lonely place for me; it's always challenging and inspiring me. And I've come to find out that the thing that I like to do the most, when I put it out there, has changed so many people."

While he was able to capitalize on Elgin Park's popularity with a pair of books, [Elgin Park: An Ideal American Town](#) and [Elgin Park: Visual Memories of Midcentury America at 1/24th scale](#), Smith said he also formed many connections with fans and with other artists fond of his work, particularly those who want to do some good with their artistic talents, and said the concept of Elgin Park will certainly outlive him.

"Elgin Park now has an atmosphere and gravity, and if it ends for me, I think it will continue because it has made an impact," Smith said in the documentary. "If I passed away tomorrow, that's

perfectly alright because I feel like I have done something."

Smith died November 19, according to the [announcement on his Flickr page](#).

<https://www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/07/10/the-oldest-trick-in-the-special-effect-book-go-behind-the-scenes-with-michael-paul-smith/>

Now we turn to Rich Argus goodies



Rich explaining how he combines people parts



Rich is planning on building these resin kits



Rich recently completed approx. 30 figures!

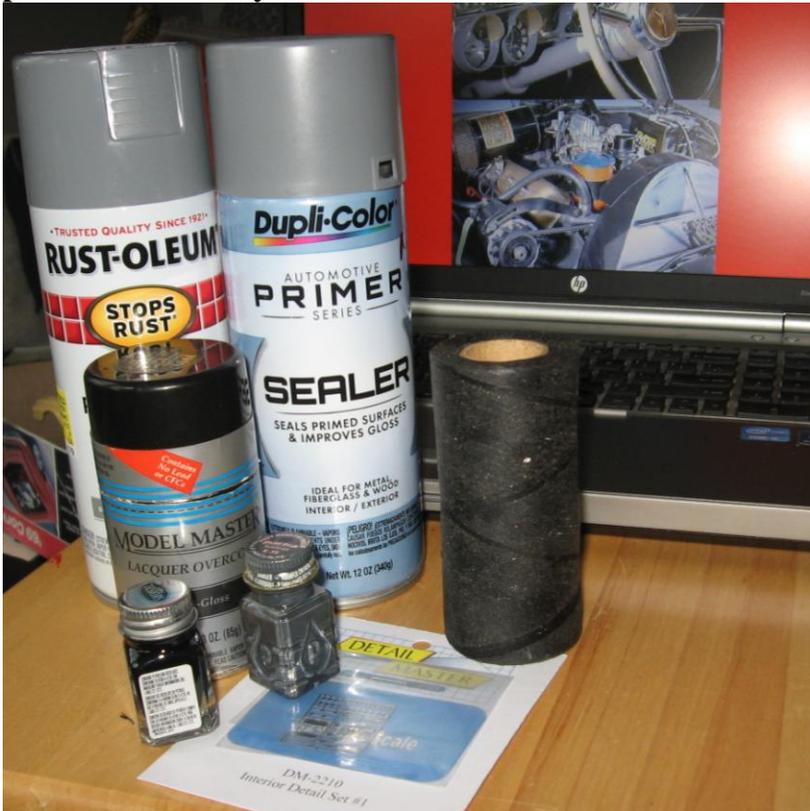


Replicating the Past Pt 6 Steve "Big Daddy"

Well progress on the Studie has stalled, kind of like the real car did, but I'd like to focus on some basic tools and supplies. I know most of you are well versed in hobby tools but we don't have to be stuck with having to ferret out exotic tools to achieve your desired outcome.

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The basics are; model cement, Exacto knife, paint brushes, sanding paper, primer, rattle can paint and creativity.



Detail Master has great photo-etched items, pick a bunch up before they're gone.



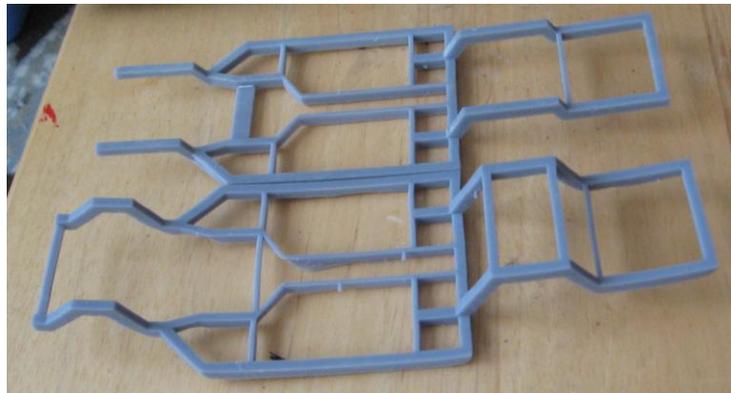
I think the drill index and the battery powered paint mixer were from MicroMark. (the mixer wand works in the paint jar, so be careful or you'll have a hell of a clean up.)



An assortment of brushes is a big plus. (Yeah, I work off this cluttered table, what's it to ya?)

Some of the many suppliers of tools, paints and material are;

- MicroMark
- Squadron (yes they are back)
- Mega Hobby
- Shore Line Hobby
- Hobbyline
- Hobby Lobby
- Home Depot, Lowes and your local hardware store
- The local hobby shop (the few that are left)
- Michaels
- Some of the "dollar" stores
- And my favorite, e-Bay



I found these 3D printed chassis from Juan Sepulvida on e-Bay. He has other cool stuff, check 'em out.

Well, let's see if I can find motivation?

Dr.V: Please remember this is the LIARS club, if it does not support my ... then I do not care! WOW!

Be safe and healthy, **Steve "Big Daddy"**

Miscellaneous goodies

Dave Vehrs called Dr.V to report that Bay Shore Hobbies and Toys moved! ... to a larger store in

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the same shopping center just closer to Hobby Lobby. (2056 Sunrise Hwy, Bay Shore LI)
It appears to be 3 times larger...aisles are clear of all the ...! Wow you can now find items!

Amazing Rig Is Part Semi Truck, Part RV

<https://www.motortrend.com/news/1990-peterbilt-379-kingsley-coach-motorhome-mecum/>

Noticed the next item under Round 2 releases.
Round 2 brings back another classic George Barris MPC 1/25 kit for show-car enthusiasts
BY TOM VALENTA *A former LIARS developed the article! How about that!*



Known as the “original” King of Kustomizers, George Barris created legendary cars for screens, both big and small, including the Munster Coach, the Batmobile, and the Beverly Hillbillies Oldsmobile truck. One of his lesser-known vehicles was a kit car, originally designed to appeal to the 1960s surfer crowd, known as the Barris “T” Buggy. Initially powered by a Chevrolet Corvair flat-six engine, some subsequent builds used various Volkswagen powerplants. Several body styles were available, including an open buggy, landau buggy, and the “C” cab truck buggy, which MPC used as a

basis for the 1/25 scale kit ... from which between 40 to 60 kit cars were produced...

How I Clean, Polish, and Wax My 1:18 Diecast Models!

<https://youtu.be/RKuBMEtOSBE>

Tips on Displaying Model Cars

<https://youtu.be/0gA3TZ6kaUs>

Downloaded the following from Delaware Valley Scale Modelers (www.DVsm.org)

July Theme Contest Winner



Scratchbuilt 1/25 FWD

Mike Turco photo

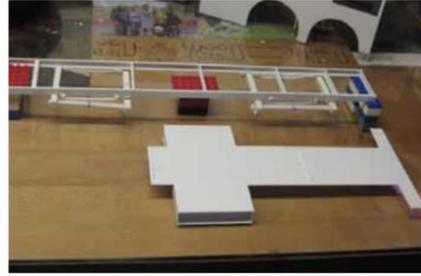
P-2 Crash Truck

By Joe Vattilana * photos by the author, except where noted

In March, 2020, just before COVID hit, I wanted to scratch build another model. One project I considered was the FWD P-2 crash fire truck that was used by the US Air Force in the 1960's and 1970's. I decided to “go big or go home,” so I decided on a 1/25 scale model. I had some photographs from a 1970's display at Dover AFB, plus a technical manual. The tech manual had photographs of the truck, plus some details on the engine, chassis, wheels, etc., as well as specifications. I was able to find on the Internet side views of the truck which I scanned up to 1/25 scale (16 inches).

The truck is basically a “shoebox shape” on wheels. The only curves were the wheel wells that were easily made. However, I needed large truck tires with a specific wheel

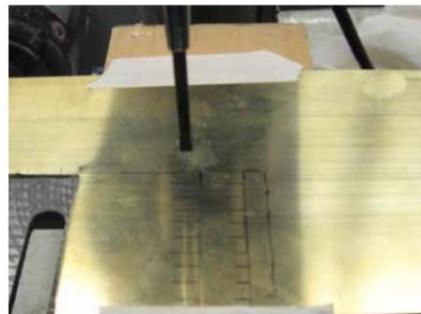
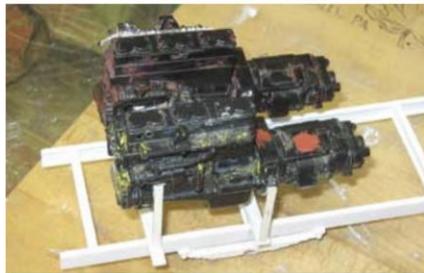




design that, if it wasn't available, the project was a non-starter. American Industrial Truck Models in New Jersey came to my aid and provided me with eight sets.

Using photocopies of the views, I cut out .030 sheet plastic for the overall shapes. I used A LOT of sheet plastic in various sizes, brass sheet for the engine doors, some AMT parts for the steering wheel and cabin, some engine and transmission parts from a Russian truck for detail "gizmoses."

I wanted to show the engine details (two engines are needed on this truck- one for movement and the other for water pumps), but I could not find them online. I was very fortunate to find three "used" engines on EBay that needed to be paint stripped and modified. I believe these were diesel engines from some kit, but I heavily modified them (adding an engine cover at the top, modified fanbelts, etc.), so they look somewhat like the gasoline engines the trucks originally used.



The cabin was large, and from what I can determine, uncluttered. I used plastic grating for the floor, the aforementioned seats and steering wheel. The instrument panel and turret handles were all scratch built.

Since the engine doors showed louvres, I used a

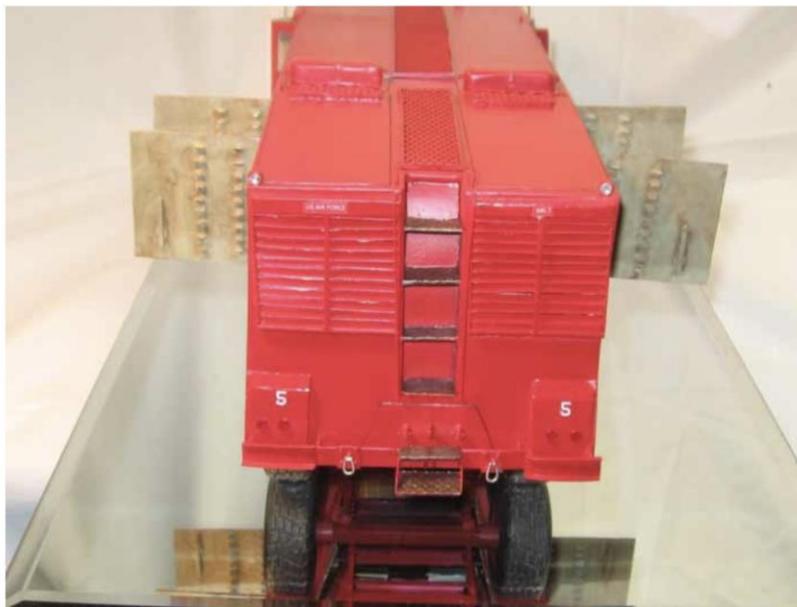
Painting was a very straightforward affair: Testors red. Considering firemen always keep their vehicles clean, I did not weather the outside; only inside the engine compartment and some of the cabin. I tried to add some highlighting on the top, but frankly it did not turn out the way I wanted. Decals were made on the

technique that I found on the internet. I cut thin brass sheet, and using a small screwdriver I carefully punched holes into the brass sheet which made it realistic.

For the chassis and underside, I did some educated guessing based on a few tech manual drawings and "if I was designing this vehicle, where would I place the brake lines?", etc.

computer.

In sum, this was a project I had thought about for some time. Whether it will be successful in any contests remains to be seen (it would be entered as a military vehicle rather than commercial), but I was pleased with the result. ■



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