



Interview by Anna Kilimnik for Autopilot.ru
<http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/2520311>

Question to Markus Haub

1. Can you write a bit of biographical detail about yourself?
 Who are your parents, for example? Do you have brother or sister?

I am from the city of Mainz in Germany and have two brothers. One of them is my twin-brother!
 I studied Transportation Design at the FH Pforzheim, did internships in Opel, Audi Design München, Design Storz in Zell am See or Heuliez in Torino. My first job was at Design Center Europe (Volkswagen Group) in Sitges, south of Barcelona. In 2000 I went to work for Renault in their newly opened design studio in the centre of Barcelona. That's where I worked (again) with Ulfert Janssen. We both created [Speedstar-Gallery](#) some years ago. Now I live partially in Spain and Germany.

2. What did you like to draw in childhood?

I drew everything, but with age of 13 I started drawing cars. First existing models, later I did my own creations. Mainly sportscars 😊 ! Later then I found out that there is something like car design and it was clear that I wanted to study that. There was no other option for me.

3. What is more interesting: to create some new car, to make a photo of car you like most of all or to paint original picture on automobile theme?

You can't compare that. Designing a car and develop it is extremely exciting. But in the end it's a product that has to comply with certain functions. It also takes weeks, months or even years to finish. In my paintings I capture something existing and transform it in a unique, decorative piece. I just do what I want and not even that. Sometimes it's completely accidental. That's part of the creation.

4. Was it easy for you to change main occupation from design to painting?
Why did you decide to do it?

I worked at Renault Design in Barcelona, then did an exchange to the Renault Design Paris Studio for two years and came back in 2006. But the political situation in the company was getting worse and worse, there was so much rubbish. Around that time I felt that this would come to an end for me sooner or later. I didn't enjoy my job anymore. After a year they told me to go back to Paris and work in Technocentre. That was in July 2007, when I was working on an electric car project, which later became the TWIZY. I quit my job the day after I returned from summer vacation in August. I knew that I would not like to work for another company any time soon and that I would liked to stay in Barcelona, so I had to see what to do. But at that time the crisis was starting and because it was difficult to get a job as freelance designer, I started painting more. It happened all very naturally and was working very well from the beginning on. My network was starting to grow and I enjoyed my independency.

5. Do you have today another works or projects that don't connected with painting cars?

I write randomly for different magazines (INTERSECTION, Motor77, petrolicious..) or for my websites. Mainly for www.formfreu.de, which I created with a designer-friend seven years ago. It's a photo-blog where we mainly show photos from classic car events or design-related subjects. Over the years we posted 50 000 photos and more then 1000 articles.

I also not only paint cars, but as well cities like Barcelona, New York or Paris.

6. What do attract you in cars? Beauty, power or something else?

As a designer the shape always attracts me. The beauty of the object, also the brutal performance of the racecars. I love to see them on the racetrack or hear and smell them and photograph them. Sometimes the ground vibrates when they drive by. I was at Spa Francorchamps recently. At the downhill straight before the Eau Rouge curve the cars drive very close by the pit-wall and you can almost touch them. The sensation of speed and power is unbelievable.

I also like to participate in classic cars rally's and drive old cars. That's the ultimate thing, because you get the full sensation of the automobile and can control it yourself.

7. How do you decide what model you will be paint? If it not a requests from you client.

I go through my photos and select the image depending on my mood and what I am looking for. There are no rules. It has to attract me with the model, perspective, but also contrast, color or light.

8. Do you think your blog helped you to make your artwork known?

Yes, but not only my blog. Thanks to the numerous articles about me my work is well known now. Also clients or galleries contact me now. That what I do and how I work would have been impossible without the Internet and the contacts I made through that.

9. Does it any difference to make art work for money or not? Do you earn enough by your art works?

I love what I do and do what I love. I am happy that my artwork permits me to live how and where I want and to do what I like to do.

10. You have your special style of drawing. How did you find it?

As a designer I always preferred to draw with pencil or ball-pen. My artwork is done in a wild mixture of many different techniques. Digital and manual. I use all kinds of material, acrylic or fluorescent paint, wax, pencil, glue, varnish...I adapted it over the years. In the beginning it was more the digital image, which I tried to preserve, now I work more on the canvas and add more details and texture.

11. When do you draw a car, for you this is a still-life or portrait?

Drawing a car as a designer its probably more a portrait, because I focus on the object. In a painting the background and the composition is more important, so maybe it's rather a still-life.

12. What cars do you have?

I have a Ferrari and two Porsche 911. The Ferrari is a 308 GT4 from 1977 which I bought three years ago from a car designer. He restored the car completely and kept it for 23 years. I had the luck to get it. The 911s are more practical cars. The 964 is from 1993 and I drove it almost 100000km in the last 10 years. The other one is a F-model from 1968, its wonderfully preserved and unrestored, which is very rare. I use it a lot for classic car rallies, just recently the Sachs Franken Classic, which was a three-day rallye over 600km or last year the Silvertta Classic in the Alps. I am always again surprised how reliable, fast and easy to drive the car is. It's so fun!

13. Do you ever thought to make art work with Russian car? Do you like any of them?

I never did any painting of a Russian car. I kind of like the Lada Niva though. It's a classic already!

14. What do you want to do in the future – the same as today or not?

I don't know. In life everything can happen and I don't believe in making big plans. When I look 10 years back, I could have never imagined what I would do today. It might be different again in ten years from now. I try to go through life with open eyes and ears, and try to catch the opportunities which come. Living in Spain I realized how great life and how important the balance is. Sometimes it's the small things in life, which makes you happy, things you see or people you meet. Barcelona is my dream city, my source of inspiration and my battery charger. That's the secret, find the energy and enjoy every day!

<http://www.speedstar-gallery.com>