

Sennheiser brings sound to life in Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

At the automotive exhibition Motion. Autos, Art, Architecture.



'Motion. Autos, Art, Architecture is a landmark exhibition organized by the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in collaboration with the Norman Foster Foundation. The legendary architect and renowned car enthusiast curated the exhibition, and collaborated with another well-known car fanatic, Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, for the sound design of some of its galleries. Immersive sound specialist Sennheiser was invited to deliver an innovative audio experience for the showcase.

Running between April and September this year, Motion. Autos, Art, Architecture is an epic installation that plots the history of the automobile with the evolution of modern art, celebrating the artistic dimension of the car and linking it to the parallel worlds of painting, sculpture, architecture, photography and film. Installed into seven themed galleries, namely Beginnings, Sculptures, Popularising, Sporting, Visionaries, Americana, and Future, Foster and his co-curators from the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Manuel Cirauqui and Lekha Hileman Waitoller, have brought together 38 automobiles, each an archetype of the theme in terms of beauty, rarity, technical progress and a vision of the future: alongside an outstanding selection of masterworks from modern and contemporary artists and architects.

"These are extraordinarily beautiful objects, and they co-exist at an equal level with great works of art and architecture," Foster declared to the press at the opening of the exhibition. "There's a cultural synergy and that is against the silo mentality

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In the Didaktika galley, Mason’s concept was to present a linear timeline of the automobiles shown throughout the exhibition, selecting and recording the sound of ten engines from the most iconic and representative cars in the collection. To compose and enable the soundtrack, Nick Mason and his team at Ten Tenths selected and recorded cars in motion, and and partnered with Sennheiser to bring to life the vision of an emotion-rich, realistic sound experience powered by immersive audio technology and expertise.

The finished piece is evocatively played along the length of the corridor that fittingly leads to the Future gallery, where worldwide schools of design and architecture are presenting their visionary automotive concepts, with the support of AIC-Automotive Intelligence Center, a European centre for the generation of value for the automotive sector to address the challenges of the 21st century.

“The composition gives a voice to some of the world’s most forward-thinking cars in automotive history, portraying the evolution of automotive engine sounds over time,” explains Johannes Kares, sound engineer at Sennheiser. “Neumann speakers were selected for their compact and invisible design, and their intimate and immersive audio quality, which was the perfect fit for this installation.”

The exhibition includes many rare examples, such as Nick Mason’s 1962 Ferrari 250

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GTO, a 1950 Porsche 356 Pre-A, one of the 1964 Aston Martin DB5s used in Goldfinger, a 1970 Lancia Stratos Zero concept car, and Lewis Hamilton's 2020 Mercedes F1 car. Many of the cars derive from private collections and public institutions, meaning this exhibition is providing access for a wider audience for the first time.

"This truly is a ground-breaking, unique exhibition. Never before has such a collection of automobile history and future concepts been gathered in one space, and with the dawn of the electric power revolution, the timing could not be more fitting," concludes Sofia Brazzola, Brand & Marketing Manager, AMBEO Mobility at Sennheiser. "Sennheiser's AMBEO Mobility venture is committed and invested in the future of automotive audio and communication technology, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this milestone exhibition."

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