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"Près de Champ de Mars" - "Near the Champ de Mars" Jay Koka ©2018, 44x34" (110x85cm) acrylic on canvas

The iconic Eiffel Tower is located on the Champ de Mars in the 7th Arrondissement of Paris France. I was in Paris early in February of 2018 exhibiting my work at the RetroMobile show with the European Artist Auto group. I am forever on the hunt for painting settings no matter where I am. And this sunny morning was no different as we strolled down the Avenue de la Bourdonnais and came upon the Rue de l'Université intersection. The base of the tower framed by the buildings on this gracious cul-de-sac was irresistible. A Ferrari 275GTB/4 rounds the corner...on its way home?

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"The Drift No 4" - "Le 'Drift' No 4" Jay Koka ©2018, 34x44" (85x110cm) acrylic on canvas

The Drift No 4 continues a series of paintings started in 2000. Its predecessors have featured a Jaguar XKD, a Porsche Carrera GT (2008) and a Porsche 918 (2016) each as different in style and execution as the one before.

Being young and inexperienced at the time, the Miura was pretty much the first "supercar" I became aware of at its debut. I recall thinking that it was the most beautiful car I had ever seen. I didn't think I had much of a chance at owning one as I drove my Austin-Healy 3000 Mk III which kept me in the poor-house trying to keep it running (...but the girls liked it).

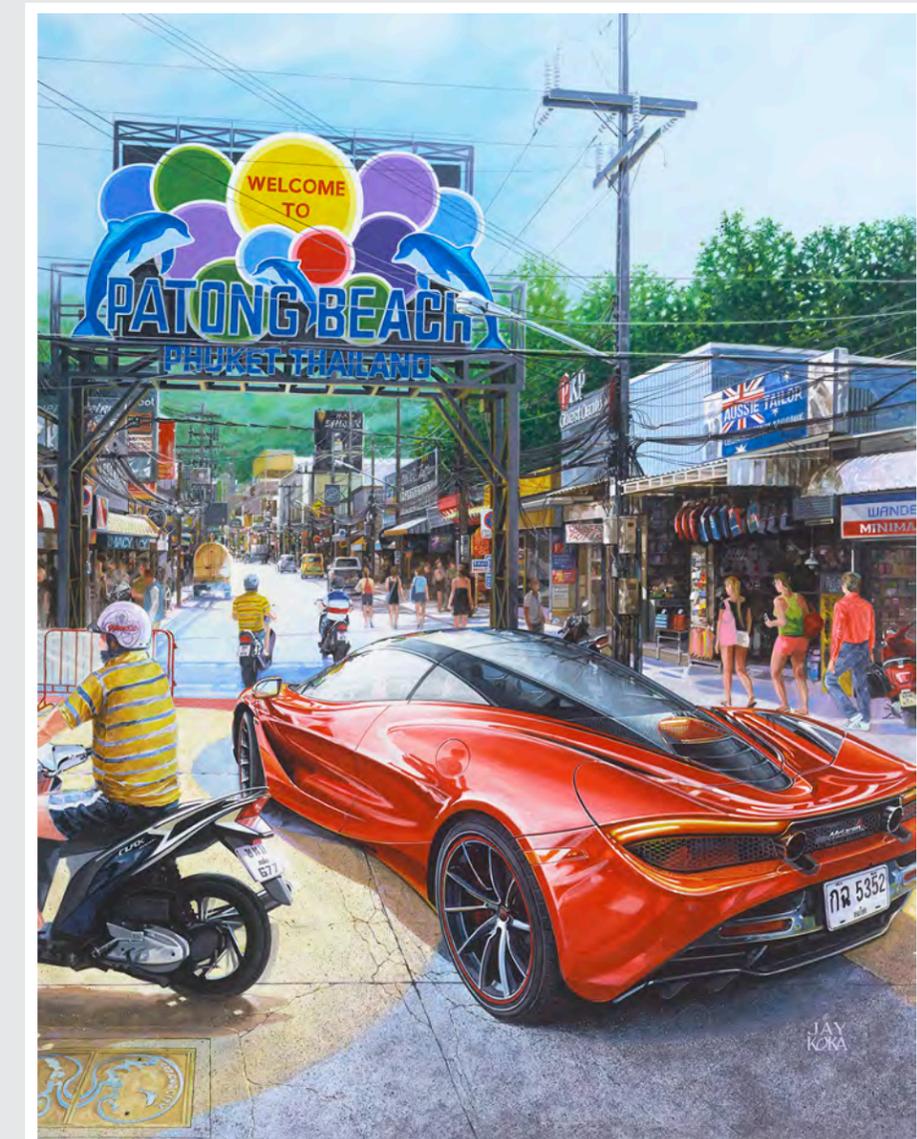
So it's somewhat surprising that it took me some 25 years to get around to doing a painting of the car that I still consider one of the most beautiful around. It has stood the test of time well and is a testament to the Bertone and Lamborghini folks that were responsible for its creation.

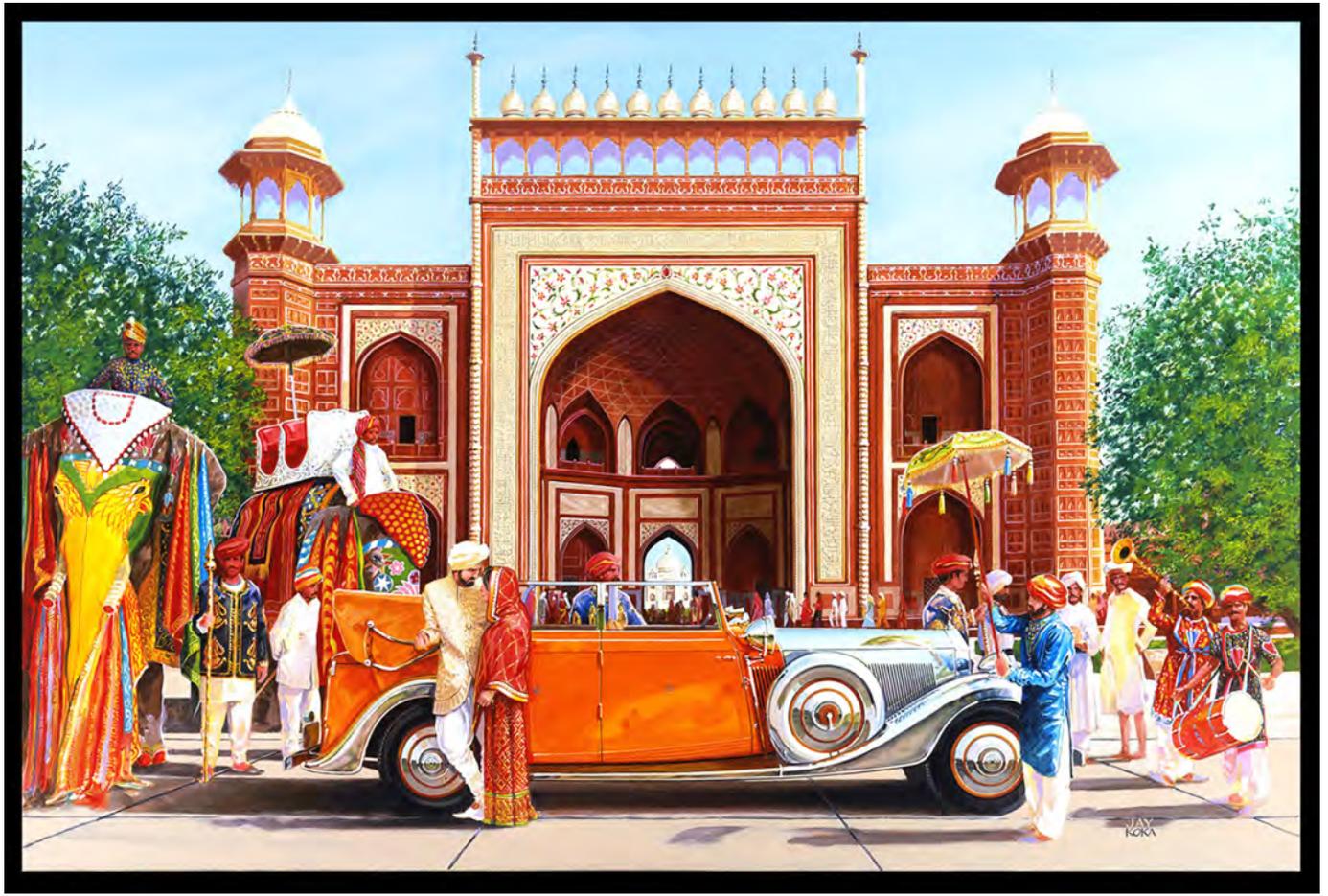
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"Welcome to Patong Beach" - "Bienvenue à Patong Beach" Jay Koka, © 2018, 44x56" (110x140cm), acrylic on canvas

The bay at Patong Beach in Phuket, Thailand may well be one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. It certainly looked like it when we arrived at the dock by boat one morning in 2017... pristine azure waters and a magnificent sweeping arc of a sand beach stretching in both directions as far as the eye can see.

The intersection of Thawewong Rd (the beach road) and Thanon Banga features an improbable yet remarkable and audacious welcome sign that I just couldn't resist. Thanon Banga is a one way street that is closed off to traffic at night and that's a good thing because I haven't been anywhere in the world that has more bars and nightclubs per foot than this party street. But at 11 in the morning, all is quiet and laid back. Taking advantage of a lull in traffic and an almost empty road, a McLaren 720S makes its way up party central avenue...





"At The Darwaza Gate" - "À la porte de Darwaza"
 Jay Koka, © 2018 48x32" (120x80cm) acrylic on canvas

You can't see the Taj Mahal even once inside the main entry gates of the 42 acre grounds. You approach along a lengthy corridor of red sandstone buildings culminating in a ninety degree right turn to face the wonderful Darwaza Gate. As you approach the building, you see the spot at which the "Taj" will appear. You then walk through that portal from darkness to brilliant sunlight and there it is, the incomparable Taj Mahal... but it takes a moment to resolve itself.

Every step is a brilliantly designed and executed drama.

The "Star of India" is now back in India in the hands of Maharaja Mandhatsinh Jadeja, grandson of the Maharaja of Rajkot, the original commissioner of the magnificent 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II.

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