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The Ride 2nd Gear: New Custom Motorcyclesand Their Builders. Gentlemen Edition





Synopsis

Men and motorcycles: a story that has vacillatedsomewhere between cult and clichAcfor years. Custom bikes, in particular, have a history that is deeply rooted in the spirit offreedom and change of the 1960s, as well asman's primal urge to build something withhis own hands --or, in this case, tools. The Ride 2nd Gear is a showcase of the power and beauty of these bikes. The book presents a stunning selectionof recent custom motorcycles, as well as thesmall, local workshops around the globe inwhich they are built. Hotbeds of creativity and craftsmanship, these workshops are mostly run by single individuals and attracta small yet devoted community of fansand fellow builders. Rather than coveting the newest luxury models to come off the assembly line, this community is more concerned with transformations. They want toturn grandpa's old heap, a bargain found on eBay, or a soulless model from anotherera into something of their very own. Theywant to augment old motors and existing mechanics with modern technology or make their personal visions of aesthetics and handling a reality. This process takestime, dedication, technical expertise, and skilled handcraft. From limited series to one-offs made for personal pleasure or to order, The Ride2nd Gear features the brilliant results of this process. Its pages are filled with bikesthat offer extraordinary design and driving experiences. In fact, established brands are now acting on trends set by the customscene whose bikes are often more radicaland sophisticated because more attentioncan be paid to detail and each new idea canbe fine-tuned to perfection. The models shown in The Ride 2nd Gearstem from or are based on classic bobbersand choppers, Italian-style racing machines, plastic Japanese motorcycles, and rareBMWs or Triumphs, some of which mayvery well be 30-50 or even 80 years old. They are vintage in the best sense of the word. They not only preserve, but also improveand expand upon the quality of traditional craftsmanship. Decked out with state-ofthe-art disk brakes, LED lights, gears, anddrive components, these custom machinesare more agile, faster, and therefore morefun than anything produced in the past.

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