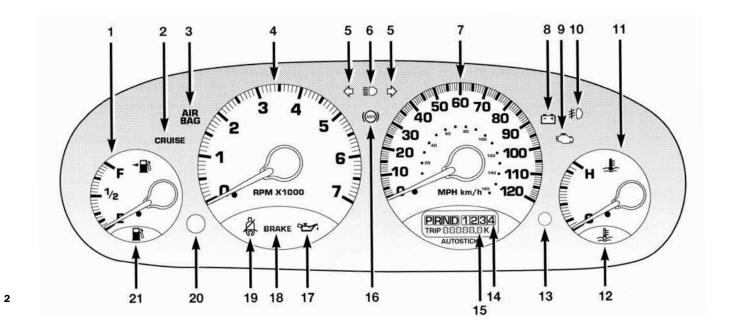
AutoBIOGRAPHY

A CAR OPERA IN FIVE ACTS



- 3 | Introduction ➤ A note of welcome
- 4 | How to Use This Manual ➤ Some symbols for perusal
- 5 | Welcome/Pleased to Meet You ➤ Additional welcome and background on the performance
- 6 | Things to Know Before Starting Your Vehicle Experience ➤ Sequence and names of acts and interludes
- 7 | About Your Vehicle > A visual depiction of the parking garage where the performance will happen
- 8 | Understanding the Features of Your Vehicle Experience ➤ Artistic contributions for each act and interlude
- **11** | **Contributors** ➤ People and organizations who contributed to the performance
- **15** | **Starting and Operating** ➤ Biographical information about the various contributors
- 25 | Who Brought the Red Carpet Zoo? ➤ Information about specialty donated vehicles and their owners
- 27 | Thanks Again/Can't Say it Too Much ➤ Repetitive but necessary gratitude for supporters
- **28** | **Auxiliary Power Points** ➤ Notes on *AutoBiography Magazine*
- 29 | If You Need Consumer Assistance > Questions for self-guided tours to facilitate thought during and after the performance
- 30 | Things the Manual Says When it Talks to You About Cars ➤ Scrap gathered from other car manuals
- **31** | **Notes** ➤ A place for you to write



Welcome! Thank you for choosing *AutoBiography:* A Car Opera in Five Acts. We prepared this program to help guide you through the performance. You'll notice it looks and feels like a car manual; that's because we hope you'll use it like one.

In the front, you'll find the structure of the performance and a little bit more about why it's happening. A little further on, you'll find a list of all the visual, vehicular and performing artists who contribute to each act. That's the essential information.

If you're looking for something extra to inform your experience, we've provided short biographies of key contributors, questions to help you process

the show and space for you to take notes (the same way your car manual has space for you to log maintenance information.)

Your self-guided tour takes roughly one hour. Start at Handy's Service Center and follow the AutoBiography logo on the parking garage floor to view the performance in sequence. The show ends with an exhibition at Lucky Next Door, where you can see video, smell custom car scents and participate in a podcast about cars. Your program is your ticket for a free cup of coffee, so hang onto it!

See you on the road, The AutoBiography Team

Consult the following table if you are in need of a symbol.



ENGINE



HEATED MIRROR

CHILD SEAT

TETHER ANCHOR

CHILD SEAT

TETHER ANCHOR







ΞC

HIGH BEAM





HORN





SLIDING DOOR TRUNK / DECK RELEASE AIR CONDITIONING

UPPER AIR OUTLET

UPPER AND LOWER AIR OUTLET

LOWER AIR OUTLET



RECIRCULATION

HEATED SEAT

HEATED SEAT





DOOR LOCK

WINDOW LIFT

4 CONVERTIBLE 4 WINDOW DOWN





















WINDSHIELD WASHER

WINDSHIELD WASHER

FLUID LEVEL

WINDSHIELD, ELECTRICALLY

HEATED

777

WINDSHIELD

DEFROST

WINDSHIELD WIPER AND WASHER

SRS

AIRBAG

SUPPLEMENTAL

RESTRAINT SYSTEM





77

AIRBAG

SIDE AIRBAG

HAZARD

WINDOW LOCK















LIGHTER











SLIDING DOOR



CONVERTIBLE TOP DOWN

CONVERTIBLE TOP UP RELEASE HANDLE

Congratulations on choosing to experience AutoBiography! The following information is important for the enjoyment of your new vehicle experience.

AutoBiography is a multisensory and site-specific performance created by artist Erika Senft Miller in association with Burlington City Arts and with collaborators Aaron Stein, Matt LaRocca, Leif Hunneman and Alice & the Magician, sponsored by Dealer.com. The five-act production takes place in the Marketplace Garage in Burlington, VT on Sunday, November 4.

The production is inspired by "Der Ring des Nibelungen," or "The Ring Cycle," by Richard

Wagner. See *AutoBiography Magazine* (for purchase) for details on Wagner's Ring Cycle and for stories about cars and how people relate to them.

Over 60 people and organizations contributed to this production — a number that pales in comparison to the 4,307,800 people employed by the American automotive industry in September of 2018.

PRELUDE

Handy's Service Center

How long will it take?/Are we there yet?

ACT 1

Das Rheingold/Das Rheingold

Is that for me?

Interlude: The Fairy Tower

ACT 2

It All Happens Here/Die Walküre

How does it fight?

Interlude: The Red Carpet Zoo

ACT 3

St(r)atus Quo/Siegfried

Where are my blind spots?

Interlude: Car Pool

ACT 4

The Clash/Götterdämmerung, Part 1

Is the obstacle mine?

Interlude: Cool Uber

ACT 5

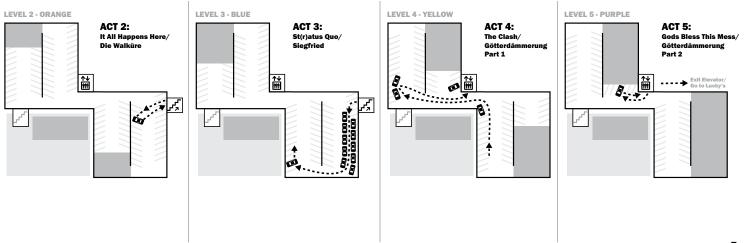
Gods Bless This Mess/ Götterdämmerung, Part 2

How does it fall?

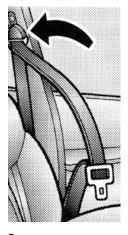
Postlude: Exit through Elevator

The ShowroomWhere do we go next?





FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS



The following is a guide to the people and organizations who made artistic contributions to each act and transitional scene.

PRELUDE

Handy's Service Center as a Starting Place

- · Video games by Leif Hunneman
- Program by Mercedes Williams, Gotham City Graphics and Erika Senft Miller
- AutoBiography Magazine by Kim MacQueen, Amey Radcliffe, Mercedes Williams and others

ACT 1

New Mercedes-Benz as the Car

 Alex Bigelow, Ari Erlbaum, and Dan Siegel as the Musician

- Sage Horsey, Don Obviar, Navah Stein, and Mireya Guerra as the Dancers
- Choreography by Sage Horsey

INTERLUDE

Stairwell as a Transformed Space

- Annalise Shelmandine as an Opera Singer/ Fairy/Rhinemaiden
- Installation sculpture by Lydia Kern, Erika Senft Miller, Aaron Stein and Leif Hunneman
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski, Alice & the Magician

ACT 2

2001 Subaru Impreza as the Car

- Video, audio and light by Leif Hunneman
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski, Alice & the Magician

INTERLUDE

1951 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe, Factory 1965 Cobra Factory Five Racing Challenge Car, 1927 Bugatti Type 35C, 1963 Ferrari 250 Gran Turismo Omologata and 1967 Triumph Spitfire Mark II, 1950 Buick Special sedan as the Cars

- Audio composition by John Mantegna
- Lights and sound by Leif Hunneman

ACT 3

2003 Dodge St(r)atus as the Car

- · ivamae as the Musician
- Sculpture by Aaron Stein, Lydia Kern and Erika Senft Miller

- Audio composition by ivamae
- Lights and sound by Leif Hunneman
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski, Alice & the Magician

INTERLUDE

2003 Toyota Camry as the Car

• The Sleepless Knights as the A Capella Singers

ACT 4

2008 Honda Pilot as the Other Car

- Hannah Fair as the Musician in the Pickup Truck
- Video composition by Leif Hunneman
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski of Alice & the Magician

Throughout

Drivers directed by Jonathan Silverman

INTERLUDE

1966 Volkswagen Beetle as the Car

 Interactive video installation by Aaron Stein and Leif Hunneman

ACT 5

2014 Dodge Grand Caravan as the Minivan

- Julia Caesar as the Musicians
- Elizabeth Seyler, Real Cloutier, Carmen Cormier, David Lansky, Francine Thériault and Eva Zimet as the Tango Performers
- Video by Kelly Holt
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski of Alice & the Magician

POSTLUDE

Photographic prints and installation

- Katherine O'Brien with Erika Senft Miller and Lydia Kern
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski of Alice & the Magician

EPILOGUE

Lucky Next Door as the Showroom

- Video by Leif Hunneman and Kelly Holt
- Scent by Aaron Wisniewski of Alice & the Magician
- Choreography by Sage Horsey. Thabitha Lerato, Kelly Malone-Wolfsun, Lily Lawson, Lydia Sheffield, Annabel Dilley, Ava Bartlett as the dancers.
- Audience interviews by Adam Rabin
- General interviews by Mercedes Williamsw

Over 60 people and organizations collaborated to make AutoBiography happen. They are listed in this chapter by the nature of their contributions.

- 11 | Major Artistic Collaborators
- 12 | Movement
- 12 | Sound Systems
- 13 | Production, Materials and Sponsors
- 14 | Design and Media

MAJOR ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS

Erika Senft Miller, concept and production
Burlington City Arts/Doreen Kraft, co-production
Leif Hunneman, light, sound and technology
Aaron Stein, site design and coordination, cars
Aaron Wisniewski, olfactory experience
Matt LaRocca, sound
Jonathan Silverman, director of audience guides
Lydia Kern, production assistant and installation

To learn more about the contributors, see the "Starting and Operating" section beginning on page 15.

MOVEMENT

Sage Horsey
Don Obviar
Navah Stein

Mireya Guerra

Elizabeth Seyler

Francis Cloutier

Real Cloutier

Carmen Cormier

David Lansky

Francine Thériault

Eva Zimet

Thabitha Lerato

Kelly Malone-Wolfsun

Lily Lawson

Lydia Sheffield

Annabel Dilley

Ava Bartlett

SOUND SYSTEMS

Alex Bigelow, guitar

Ari Erlbaum, saxophone

Dan Siegel, guitar

Annalise Shelmandine, voice

John Mantegna, composition

ivamae, composition

and voice

Hannah Fair, music

Julia Caesar, music

The Sleepless Knights,

a capella

PRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND SPONSORS

Burlington City Arts/Doreen Kraft, coproduction

Patrick Mulligan of the City of Burlington, location

Dealer.com, funding

The Automaster, car

Premier Strength & Performance, manpower

Handy's Service Center, location

Lucky Next Door, location

Spillane's Towing and Recovery, towing

D. Richard Automotive, cars

Downs Rachlin & Martin, liability waiver

New England Floor Covering, red carpet

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, velvet rope

Hickok & Boardman Insurance Group, raffle prize

The organizers frequented the following businesses in order to complete this production:

Rathe's Salvage

AAA Tint Mv Ride

Dark Star Lighting & Production

Essex Equipment
Summit Racing Equipment
Tayda Electronics

Jameco Electronics

PJRC: Electronic Projects Automotive Workwear

American Patch & Emblem Company

Dunkin' Donuts

DESIGN AND MEDIA

Gotham City Graphics, program

Mercedes Williams, program writer

Kim MacQueen, press

Kelly Holt, press coordinator, photo/video contributor, event photographer

Renee Greenlee, event photographer

Katherine O'Brien, photo contributor, event photographer

Daniel Cardon, event photographer/videographer

Scott Barber, event videographer

Rob Hunter, event videographer

Alder Studio, web announcement



Everyone has a car story. Compiled below are short biographies of key individuals and organizations who made AutoBiography possible, as well as a sampling of their automotive insights and memories.

- 15 | Origins and Concept
- 16 | Ventilation
- 16 | Interior
- 17 | Sound Systems
- 19 | Data Information Systems
- 21 | Terrain
- 22 | Movement
- 23 | Navigation Systems

ORIGINS AND CONCEPT

Erika Senft Miller is a performance artist based in Vermont who brings together artists of varied disciplines to create multisensory, immersive installations and experiences. Past works include monumental orchestrations on the Burlington waterfront, in an active salt shed, and in a DIY skatepark. Erika's exceptional understanding of movement permeates every aspect of her life; she has moved homes 17 times. Her favorite vehicle is her scooter but she loves her Volvo because she can fill it with sod and every prop/support she can imagine: skis, paddleboard, family and friends.

VENTILATION

Your vehicle experience comes equipped with distinctive scents engineered by **Aaron Wisniewski** of Alice & the Magician. Alice & the Magician is a boutique scent lab run by two brothers. They create unique edible fragrances for the culinary and cocktail arts. Olfactory designer Aaron Wisniewski's first car was a 1985 Pontiac 6000. Chief operations officer **Sam Wisniewski** remembers that his grandfather gifted him a Buick LeSabre that smelled like grandfather mints.

INTERIOR

Aaron Stein is a visual artist and sculptor who has long been fascinated by automobiles and license plates. He collaborated on the performance concept, production and logistics, from the storyboard to finding and transporting cars to transforming automobiles into immersive sculptures. One time, he entered a car into a demolition derby and displayed its remains at the South End Art Hop.

Leif Hunneman is a technologist and hybrid media manipulator based in Underhill, VT. He collaborated on the performance concept and created video, audio and lighting. If you're admiring a technological aspect of AutoBiography, Leif likely had a hand in it. He was driving a borrowed truck when it

caught fire in the middle of the Pulaski Skyway in New Jersey.

Matt LaRocca is a musician, composer, educator and performer based in Waterbury, VT. He collaborated on production elements of AutoBiography. His dad used to drive a bright red Suburban that his friends called "the fire truck." It could comfortably fit 10 people.

The Fairy Tower interlude in the garage stairwell features work by **Lydia Kern**, a performance and installation artist, sculptor and member of Erika Senft Miller's Performance Lab. Lydia once installed an altar on the dashboard of her 2008 Ford Escape. It was made of moss, feathers and

the like, and fell victim to a culture clash: Lydia's sister borrowed the car to transport the Providence College basketball team and removed the altar to appease their aesthetics.

SOUND SYSTEMS

Alex Bigelow is a guitarist and student at Saint Michael's College who plays blues music during Act 1. He has only owned two cars, and both were black, 2005 Honda Civics.

Ari Erlbaum is a musician and storyteller based in Montpelier who plays saxophone during Act 1. He once had a staring contest with a baby in a car. She won.

Annalise Shelmandine is an opera singer and voiceover artist based in Jericho, Vermont. Her naturally massive voice can be heard, amplified, in the stairwell during the Fairy Tower interlude. She has only ever owned Saabs, and the doors of her first one were welded shut. She continued her Saab story in 2005 with a 1995 Saab.

John Mantegna is a classical guitarist, composer and music technologist based in South Burlington. John composed the soundscape in the Red Carpet Zoo interlude. His first car was a 1968 Oldsmobile F85.

ivamae is a singer songwriter based in Burlington, VT. She performs original music in Act 3 and has a

thing for old Toyotas. They give her a familial feeling. Her last car was an 1989 Toyota Camry wagon named Norma Jean and she currently drives a 1986 van named Goldie.

Hannah Fair is a singer and songsmith based in Burlington, VT. She performs Bob Dylan's "Simple Twist Of Fate" in Act 4: The Clash/Götterdämmerung, Part 1. Hannah's first car was a blue 1991 Volvo 240.

Julia Caesar is a free bleeding indie femme rock band based in Burlington, Vt., composed of Liz Stafford, Katy Hellman, Megan Rice and Steven Lebel. They perform original tunes, old and new, for AutoBiography. They recently completed their

first New England tour in a borrowed Chevy van that had a peculiar quirk called "the lurch," which would tilt the car to the right every time the driver braked abruptly.

DATA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

If you have a new car, chances are you've been guided by a data information system — a multimedia interface between the human driving and aggregated data from the sky about roads and where they take us. The following people, while not communicating through your car speakers, contributed to the media and information around AutoBiography.

Amey Radcliffe co-owns Gotham City Graphics with Stephanie Salmon, based in Burlington, VT. She designed this program and the AutoBiography logo. Her first car was a 1963 Chevrolet Corvair. She's owned or co-owned ten pre-1974 VWs, one of which she contributed to this performance.

Mercedes Williams is an art writer and poet who currently lives in Mexico City. She wrote this program. Her favorite car was a mint green 1979 Ford F150 with green tweed seats. She doesn't know how to drive stick.

Renee Greenlee is a photographer and educator based Burlington, VT. Her first car was an early 1990s gold Chrysler LeBaron coupe with a sun-

roof. It gave her a sense of freedom growing up in a rural area. She remembers how her favorite tapes sounded through the blown out speakers.

Kelly Holt is an experimental photographer and curator based in Stowe, VT. She remembers travelling with her partner in his VW Camper and waiting for the odometer to reach 238,900 miles — the distance from Earth to the Moon. When it did, they pulled over at a trailhead on Mt. Mansfield and drank champagne.

Katherine O'Brien is a photographer based in Burlington, VT. In November, 2017 she drove on the Autobahn in a 20-year-old deep-blue stick shift VW at 130 miles per hour. She remembers the muted

green foliage and a blurry perception of distance.

Dan Cardon is a photographer and brand manager based in Burlington, VT. He believes that in the near future, the primary mode of transportation will be autonomous electric vehicles, beginning on the roads and moving to the air, but that petrol automobiles will always have a culture, community and place. There will be designated roads where you'll be able to drive manually with a fire-breathing engine under the hood.

Scott Barber is a filmmaker and content creator based in Colchester, VT. In 2014 he road tripped around Iceland with three friends for eight nights. They drove a blue SUV named Big Foot, camped

underneath the northern lights and shot photo and video along the way.

TERRAIN

AutoBiography would not be possible without the support of Burlington City Arts and the City of Burlington.

Doreen Kraft is the executive director of Burlington City Arts. She coproduced AutoBiography with Erika Senft Miller. Doreen grew up in New Rochelle, NY, without a lot of money, but she wanted a car for her 16th birthday. Her dad, a policeman, said she needed to learn how to drive, then could borrow the family car. When she jumped behind the wheel he was amazed at how "good" she was at driving.

Her secret? A year earlier she had learned to drive in Ireland on the back roads of Bandon with her cousin. For her 17th birthday, her brother contributed to her car fund, and she ended up with a red Karmann Ghia that fulfilled all her wildest dreams.

Patrick Mulligan is the assistant director of Parking and Traffic at the Department of Public Works of the City of Burlington. He helped facilitate the performance in the public parking garage. Did you know that parking garage gates react to metal? Erika Senft Miller learned this while meeting with Patrick.

Lucky Next Door provided the location for the epilogue, which gathers together olfactory and

artistic elements from the show into one place. The restaurant has been fueling the Burlington community since 2013. It is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MOVEMENT

Mireya Guerra is a movement artist based in South Burlington, VT. She believes that in the future, cars will go to die in developing countries and self-driving mini airplanes will take over.

Sage Horsey is a dancer and choreographer based in Burlington, VT. The weirdest thing she's ever done in a car? Sex. Definitely weird sex.

Don Obviar is a dancer, choreographer and educator based in St. Albans, VT. He remembers learning

how to drive stick with his dad on an airport runway in the Philippines and hopes that in his lifetime, he'll see cars fly.

Elizabeth Seyler is a tango performer, writer and assistant editor based in Burlington, VT. When she was 10, and on a long trip from Rochester, NY to Dayton, OH, she and her siblings watched their cat gave birth to five kittens.

Francine Thériault is a graphic artist and tango performer based in Montréal, QC. She previously owned a car that had sticky doors — when the temperature dropped below 41 degrees Fahrenheit, the doors would freeze shut and she would have to exit via hatchback.

Réal Cloutier is a tango performer and family physician based in Montréal, QC. He once had a head-to-head accident and came away with no injuries, despite the fact that at the time, airbags didn't exist.

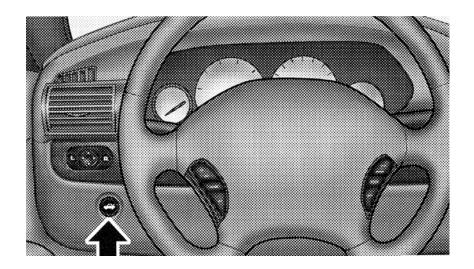
David Lansky is a tango performer and author of biological essays based in Burlington, VT. He believes that the future of transportation is the bicycle.

Carmen Cormier is a tango performer and information technologist based in Burlington, VT. In 1979, she moved into her first apartment with everything except her bureau and bed in her Pontiac LeMans.

NAVIGATION SYSTEMS

Volunteers for AutoBiography were coordinated by Jonathan Silverman. He is a potter, watercolorist, dancer and singer, and a professor emeritus of Saint Michael's College, where he chaired the education department. In 1978 he packed his life into his VW wagon and moved to the Hanover area. He spent his first night in the empty lot of a volunteer fire department station. He moved his gear to the front of the car, stretched out in the back, and fell asleep. Later, a stove fire at the station set off the alarm and he joined the volunteers as they piled into the lot to put it out.

A number of volunteer drivers lent time and footsteps to guiding participants through AutoBiography. Their directions, questions and facilitation are an integral connection between the audience and the performance. Thank you.



The Red Carpet Zoo interlude is a luxurious stroll that treats the viewer to five sensational cars. These are vehicles that make you feel something; they are coveted, and it shows in every high shining feature. Thank you to their owners for letting us stare at them.

Doug Owen of Morrisville, VT loaned his 1951 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe. This is a two-door vehicle with slight custom work, and it appears to be resting on its heels, it's nose tipped to the sky. Doug's first car was a 1955 Chevrolet.

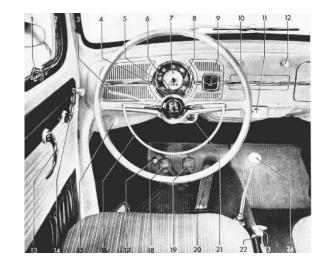
Peter Demick of Charlotte, VT loaned his Factory Five Racing Challenge Car, built in 2008. It began as 1965 Shelby Cobra and now has 392

SVO racing engine with Art Carr four speed racing automatic transmission and a 250 shot of nitrous. Peter remembers building the car with his 17-year-old son, who raced it around the yard solo once they were done.

Chris and Victoria Brassart-Jones of South Burlington, VT loaned a 1927 Bugatti Type 35C and 1963 Ferrari 250 Gran Turismo Omologata. Chris tried to buy the GTO 20 years ago in Michigan, but was outbid. But the same car came back to him via a seller in Florida. "If you love something, set it free. When it comes back it was meant to be," Chris says.

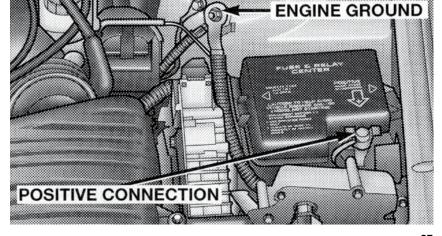
Amey Radcliffe of Westford, VT loaned her 1966 VW beetle. This Florida beetle in original "Bahama Blue", is equipped with an unusual factory-built air conditioner.

John Sollinger of Huntington, VT loaned his 1967 Triumph Spitfire Mark II. It has a removable hard-top, body modifications for cooling and tire clearance, suspension changes for autocross competition, four speed manual transmission with electric overdrive on third and fourth gear and other modifications. This car wants to be airborne — it looks like it belongs at least a few feet above the pavement. John's first car was a motorcycle, and he says the Spitfire is his four-wheeled motorcycle, and by far the most fun to drive car he's ever owned.



Special thanks to Dealer.com for funding, Burlington City Arts for production, Handy's Automotive and Lucky Next Door for pre- and postlude venues, Spillane's Towing and Recovery for towing, Automaster for cars, D. Richard Automotive for cars and parts, Premier Strength & Performance for power, Downs Rachlin & Martin for insurance, New England Floor Covering for the red carpet, and the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts for the velvet rope.



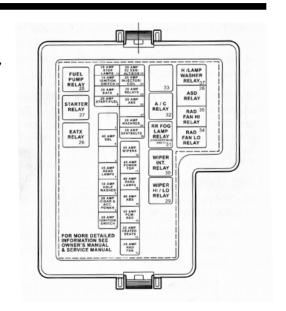




If you're interested in the way people relate to cars and would like to supplement your experience of AutoBiography, please consider purchasing *AutoBiography Magazine*. The publication contains interviews and articles from a number of contributors. You'll find a photo essay from a junkyard, automotive remembrances, interviews and thoughts on artistic collaboration.

Edited by Kim MacQueen with writing by Kim, Mercedes Williams and Molly Triffin; design by Amey Radcliffe/Gotham City Graphics; photography by Kelly Holt, Renee Greenlee and Katherine O'Brien.

For more information on where to purchase *AutoBiography Magazine*, visit erikasenftmiller.com.



These questions have been prepared to ignite conversation about the way that cars fit into our lives and provide alternate pathways to explore the exhibition.

How are cars political?

What do you see when you look in your mirrors?

Who killed the electric car and did you watch the movie?

What do you do in your car?

Where's the motor? What makes it move?

What does your car want?

What do you do at the traffic light and while you're driving?

Who drives? Who doesn't drive?

Do you clean your car? Where?

What's the weirdest thing you've ever done in a car?

Have you had sex in a car?

How do you feel when you get out of your car?

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