

The Custom Bike in Bad Salzuflen, Germany

By Juergen Wulfert

This show is one of the biggest Custom bike shows here in Germany. This year it held for the 3rd time and it grows every year. The Custom Bike is a must for everyone who wants to know what going on in the scene! The show was held December 01-03, 2006, in the city of Bad Salzuflen, right in the middle of Germany. But this one is not only a Bike show, you can see much, much more: clothes, Tattoos + Piercing, Body painting and babes.

Outside there was a place for people who love the smell of burning rubber – a burnout pit!

The exhibit hall was very much crowded and I didn't see an empty parking place. There were 150 companies exhibiting this year. Exhibitors were from all over Europe (Germany, Austria, Italia, Belgium, and Netherlands). What I missed was that there were only a few companies who show maintenance stuff. Very popular here in Germany are wide rear tires and low frames. So every manufacturer offers bikes with an wide rear tire (280 and +)

A special part of the event is that everyone gets the chance to present their own bike for the show. Every reader of the Bikers News Magazine got the chance to send a picture of their own bike to the magazine and the month before the shows starts, readers of the Bikers News, Dream Machine and Custom Bike vote for their favorite bike. The winning bikes of the drawing were at the Bike Show. Therefore, you can see all different types of bikes: Choppers, Streetfighters, and Sidecars.

We have some excellent Custom Bike builders here in Germany. Well know names are F. Kodlin (www.kodlin.com) and the only non American Winner of the Discovery channel "Bikers build off" Marcus Walz (www.walz-hardcore-cycles.com). This year he brought his "Mille Miglia" bike especially for this show from Miami to Bad Salzuflen. Another project is a bike for the Formula 1 driver Kimi Räikkönen, called the Iceman bike. Very popular are the H-Ds V-rods. Normally Harley Davidsons are slow and heavy. This is the kind of bike that German riders love. Very fast – perfect for our highways! A custom bike builder for these V-rod bikes is the NLC Company (www.no-limit-custom.com). F. Kodlin also had his 21R Slim Liner on display. This bike is the first one with that kind of front and rear end. I asked F. Kodlin what he planed for 2007. He told me, that he still have many ideas, but that's all, no details. But he said, that they had many problems right now with the new noise and emissions regulations in CA.

Other big names here in Germany are Thunderbike (www.thunderbike.de). They had their winner bike "Spectralua" on display or the Lottermann Bike companie (www.lottermanns-bikes.de) and the Habermann performance (www.habermann-performance.com) AT.American-cyles (www.at-american-cycles.de)

But we still have many more small independent builders – too many to list! Enjoy the pictures. You can see: wide rear tire, low frame, etc.....

There were the well known European parts companies such as W+W Cycles (this company offers since 25 years parts for HD), the Dutch companie Zodiac and Custom Chrome Europe. The spoke wheel manufactur TTS shows his newest style wheels and babes (wide tire and nice back) The Italian company Rebuffini showed there whole products: Aircleaner cover, mirrors, hand levers, foot pegs....Really expensive, but nice.

The babes at the show were very nice. I think, it is not allowed in your country to walk around or sit topless on an bike. But no problem at a German bike show. I enjoy the whole day!!!

Next year the Custom Bike Show 2007 will be held 11.30-12.02.2007 in Bad Salzuflen. See you there???



Custom Airbrush on a Springer



A Habermann Performance creation



Violator Motorcycles have the look