



Sexy, stylish, and stunningly modern, Art Deco burst onto the world's art scene in the 1920s and 30s, spreading a vision of prosperity and sleek ambition in a world alive with social and technological change.

Today, native Californian artist **M. KUNGL** has revived the Art Deco style, finding relevance in its art for the twenty-first century's complex tastes. For him, Art Deco glorifies sensuality and beauty while pointing to a future of innovation, efficiency, and style. Its architecture and design highlights the streamlined and futuristic; its fine art glorifies the curves of the world's most fabulously beautiful women. Above all, Kungl believes, Deco advocates the accessibility of luxury for the common man. "In Deco," he says, "everyone is a hero."

Present-day enthusiasts agree. Today, Deco artwork by period masters such as Erté and A.M. Cassandre often sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Furniture made by the Deco stylist Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann sells for small fortunes and Deco features prominently in films featuring beloved characters such as Indiana Jones and James Bond. As seen on the screens and in the architecture of theaters throughout the world, Deco is a style of opulence, excitement, and elegance.

Kungl, a motorcycle enthusiast, worked for more than twenty years at the highest tiers of the graphic design industry, producing award-winning work for such giants as Bank of America and Panasonic. Struck by the spirit of A.M. Cassandre's 1935 poster *Normandie*, Kungl combined his design background and artistic vision to create Art Deco artwork for the modern era. In homage to Cassandre, who remains his greatest influence, Mike Kungl began to be known by his first initial.

In the past, Kungl's artwork played image against text, reflecting his graphic design background. His newest work, however, avoids text for the greater creative potential of fine art. His recent series *Shaken and Stirred*, for instance, features four sensuous women clad in Deco-style metal helmets. Curvaceous and godlike, they playfully hint of excitement and seduction. With their mystery and sensuality, Kungl's paintings promise a world of allure immersed in a wealth of style.

As a sign that Art Deco has lost none of its appeal among Hollywood and the cultured and famous, Kungl's work has recently appeared on such shows as *CSI*. Kungl has also produced a number of works for Disney, including *Tinkertini*, which features the famous pixie perched on a martini glass. Miami Beach's Art Deco Weekend in 2002 featured Kungl as its official artist.

Kungl's artwork, like that of the original Deco artists, offers a glorious vision of both the future and present, and Deco, Kungl says, "is inspired by the gods."