

Portfolio: Artists on Speed

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We asked six artists to respond to the Futurist celebration of acceleration.

"We affirm that the world's magnificence has been enriched by a new beauty: the beauty of speed. A racing car whose hood is adorned with great pipes, like serpents of explosive breath — a roaring car that seems to ride on grapeshot is more beautiful than the Victory of Samothrace." — F. T. Marinetti, *The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism*, 1909



Kristin Baker

Montagues and Capulets (2007). Acrylic on PVC

In depicting race-car driver Dale Earnhardt's fatal 2001 Nascar crash, Baker explores the "clashing intensity" of the event and, consequently, the act of painting and imagemaking. "The moment of the crash is speed, technology, and violence in a nutshell," she says. "By this exceptional action, these virtues are brought to the limit in a very condensed way that is both sublime and absurd."