



ART ASTOR

A California native and 50-year broadcasting veteran, Art Astor is a renowned entrepreneur and passionate collector, having built one of the country's most impressive and diverse collections of vintage automobiles and pre and postwar memorabilia.

Born in Fresno to Armenian-immigrant parents, Art moved to Southern California during his youth. Growing up in Los Angeles and Hollywood, he was immersed in the wonderful world of showbiz from a young age, working on various different film and television sets while completing his schooling. Following graduation from Los Angeles High School, he completed a tour with the Air Force before returning to California to pursue his passion for the communications industry, completing a communications degree at the University of Southern California. Such paved the way for a long and highly successful career in the communications field – first appearing on the silver screen, and then moving into radio, where he enjoyed tremendous success in broadcast sales and management roles. Today, some five decades later, Astor remains heavily involved in the industry. His unwavering passion for radio is reflected not only in his esteemed Astor Broadcast Group, which currently includes a portfolio of three stations in the Inland Empire and San Diego, but also his remarkable and diverse Astor Communications Collection, which offers a retrospective look into some of America's earliest communication technologies.

Corporate success in the world of radio afforded Art the opportunity to indulge in his passion for vintage motor cars. Fascinated with automobiles from a young age, he fondly recalls early memories of admiring 'movie cars' on location while working on various sets during his teenage years.

His first collector car was a classic 1961 XK Jaguar Fixed-Head Coupe, which he purchased in 1968, closely followed by another Jaguar sedan, and later, a collection of great vintage Mustangs in the mid-seventies. This marked the start of the distinguished Astor Collection, a remarkable assemblage of American styling. Today, encompassing over 250 vehicles, the collection represents more than thirty years of careful and dedicated acquisition. 'It is a remembrance of Americana and its automobiles as they progressed during the twenties through sixties,' says Art, describing the collection.

Astor's passion for collecting spans well beyond cars to a magnificent assortment of memorabilia. A self-confessed 'history buff', he attributes a lifelong interest and love of history as the driving force behind his passion for collecting antiques. Like the XK Jaguar, he is quick to recall his first collector piece - a 1936 Zenith Farm model radio he purchased in the mid-sixties to commemorate 15 years in the radio industry. He still has the radio today. This historic piece was followed by various other important radios and microphones, and so the collection grew. Today, he owns one of the world's finest collections of early radio, telephones and microphones – all in working condition, alongside a variety of automobilia, an eclectic range of Art Deco furniture and décor, and a fascinating assortment of celebrity memorabilia representing an unforgettable era of Hollywood style. As Art puts it, 'Hollywood goes with automobiles'.

In 2004 Astor opened the Astor Classics Event Center, a 100,000 square foot private museum to showcase his diverse collection. The Anaheim-based museum and event center was designed to 'help advance education and knowledge of years past through the preservation, restoration and presentation of a living collection of automotive and communication technologies.' Those that have been fortunate to visit the museum over the years can attest to the significance and importance of the collection.

Art Astor's decades of acquisition and the subsequent restoration and conservation that characterizes all the examples in the collection have resulted in a superb ownership opportunity for his fellow car enthusiasts. He now looks forward to entrusting the care of these automobiles to others who will appreciate them as much as he has.