



Media Information
24 May 2019

BMW Motorrad Concept R 18.

The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.



Munich/Cernobbio. Against the backdrop of a bustling mix of the traditional and the modern on show at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este, BMW Motorrad presents an engaging alternative for a time that is being increasingly characterised by rapid technological change. You could see it as a return to the brand's core, but given a modern twist: the BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 transports the essence of the big BMW Motorrad classics into the modern age, or in other words, it is taking a historical motorcycle design and giving it a modern, custom attitude. Dr. Markus Schramm, head of BMW Motorrad, describes the design as follows: "With this dream bike, BMW Motorrad presents its own version of an emotional and authentic offer for the large cruiser segment."

The BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 shows how a forward projection of a 1960s boxer engine could look like today as a purist custom bike in combination with all the classic design icons of BMW Motorrad design.

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Media Information

Date 24 May 2019

Subject BMW Motorrad Concept R 18. The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.

Page 2

“With its clear aesthetics openly on display, the Concept R 18 embodies for me what motorcycling, at its core, is really about. It is all about feeling instead of thinking, and not using technology for self-staging, instead giving space for imagination. This concept bike appeals to something deep down – you just want to just get on it and ride off. But when you get off it again, you don’t just put it in the garage and walk away – you turn around again and give it a final parting glance”, explains Edgar Heinrich, head of BMW Motorrad Design.

Consistently purist design with timeless proportions.

The BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 is the essence of motorcycling, a bike in its original, natural form. In true custom style, it celebrates the art of leaving out what you don’t need and then concentrating on what is left. “The biggest challenge in the design is to render everything visible. Every part has a functional purpose.

There are not many who would dare to take such an absolutely honest approach”, says Bart Janssen Groesbeek, designer of the concept bike.

The BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 is immediately recognisable as a genuine BMW: boxer engine, cradle frame, exposed universal shaft and drop-shaped fuel tank with its black paintwork and hand-applied contrast lines interpret typical design icons of BMW Motorrad classics, while displaying confidence along with modern-style linearity. The balanced proportions are reminiscent of classics like the BMW R5, and convey – even from a distance – the timeless beauty that comes about whenever things are consistently reduced to their bare essentials. The frame and tank create a common line all the way from the steering head to the rear wheel hub and lend a flowing elegance to the side view. The large spoke wheels (front 21 inch, rear 18 inch) provide a secure stance and perfectly balance the dominant power unit. The tyres are a further reference to history: just as it was in its day, this bike is again fitted with Metzeler tyres.



Media Information

Date 24 May 2019

Subject BMW Motorrad Concept R 18. The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.

Page 3

The BMW boxer tradition brings out new splendour.

The heart of the BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 is the large, newly designed, two-cylinder 1800 cc boxer engine. Its outward appearance is consciously reminiscent of the flat twin engines that BMW Motorrad used to build up until the end of the 1960s – but with a considerably bigger displacement and modern air/oil cooling. The big prototype boxer has been designed down to the last detail: the engine block and transmission are made of glass bead-blasted aluminium, providing an ideal stage on which to present the hand-polished aluminium components as well as the belt guard and valve covers. The engine badge bears the name of the concept bike and emphasises the overall quality. In addition, Solex dual carburettors – similar to those in the BMW 2002 – hark back to the brand's construction history and add the final touch to the bike's visual authenticity.

Another optical highlight is the exposed, chrome-plated universal shaft that connects the back wheel to the drive. There are no further covers anywhere on the motorcycle, which serves to keep its engineering clearly visible. Similarly, the electronics of the concept bike are reduced to no more than starter and lights, underlining its purist design.

The BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 is the third in-house interpretation of the large-capacity boxer engine to come from BMW Motorrad. Last December the model created by the Japanese customisers, CUSTOM WORKS ZON was presented at the Yokohama Hot Rod Show, on the basis of this new prototype engine. The 'Departed' won the biggest accolade of the event, the 'Best of Show Motorcycle' award, thrilling motorcycle fans with its classic forms, modern production techniques and all manner of manual art and craft in the details. The next round was the interpretation by Revival Cycles.



Media Information

Date 24 May 2019

Subject BMW Motorrad Concept R 18. The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.

Page 4

The customisers from Austin, Texas created a spectacular bike with their 'Revival Birdcage' model, an ideal presentation platform for the Big Boxer. The specially developed titanium frame features an unobstructed view of the engine and drive from all angles. This American design created a furore at last month's Handbuilt Show in Texas.

High quality details in fine custom work.

As for its colour design, the BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 shows itself to be a classic. The theme is typical BMW: the white, hand-applied lines on the fork and fuel tank in combination with the black base colour represent the classic BMW colour theme. A discreet yellow-gold varnish effect lends the bright twin lines an exclusive touch, and the black effect paintwork on the tank and fork rods similarly reveal, in the best custom style, an unusual depth when the sunlight strikes the large metallic particles in the various layers of the paintwork.

The visual design of the imprinted single leather seat is borrowed from the classics of the 1950s. Reinterpreted and somewhat more comfortable, its quality embossing sits perfectly within the overall purist and high-class design. The cantilever spring strut is integrated beneath the seat. The graphics of the headlamp design are also reminiscent of the 1950s. The classic U shape of the original glass cover components are now interpreted as LED lamp elements.

Every one of these details contributes to the unique character of the concept bike and underlines its overall statement. The BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 merges traditional and historic design language with the current functionalities of BMW Motorrad in a coherent and cohesive whole.

Moreover, an exclusive and suitably themed horse leather jacket, which recreates the aesthetics of those days, has been designed especially for the presentation of the concept bike at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este.



Media Information

Date 24 May 2019

Subject BMW Motorrad Concept R 18. The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.

Page 5

The leather jacket features a very smooth surface with only little grain and the protectors are integrated almost invisibly.

A counterpoint to contemporary times.

“For me, motorcycles like the BMW Motorrad Concept R 18 are a response to a growing need among the motorcycling community: instead of technology, the focus here is on simplification, authenticity and transparency. I observe an almost romantic yearning for real mechanical engineering. Our aim with this concept bike is to address this need and turn it into an analogue statement in a digital age. We have a rich history of iconic motorcycles, and they all bear the same design characteristics. We believe that this can still work well together today with the current technology,” says Edgar Heinrich in conclusion.

Press materials for BMW motorcycles and BMW Motorrad rider equipment are available from the BMW Group Press Club at www.press.bmwgroup.com.

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Media Information

Date 24 May 2019

Subject BMW Motorrad Concept R 18. The tradition and future of BMW Motorrad melded into one perfectly shaped Custom Bike.

Page 6

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2018, the BMW Group sold over 2,490,000 passenger vehicles and more than 165,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2018 was € 9.815 billion on revenues amounting to € 97.480 billion. As of 31 December 2018, the BMW Group had a workforce of 134,682 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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