

MODELS IN SCALE

Just as the worldwide automotive industry is on the uptick, the samples here show that the scale-model-vehicle arena is alive and thriving.

BY JAY ENGEL

1963 CHEVROLET CORVETTE STINGRAY COUPE

This Autoart iteration of the classic C2 '63 split-window is done so well and with such great flair it will put a smile on any car guy's face. This 1:18-scale image is beautifully finished in Daytona blue with an intricately realistic red interior. Underhood is the iconic Rochester fuel-injected 327-cid V8 surrounded by every decal and accessory found in the 1:1. All panels are fully operational. The glazing is crystal-clear, and the foil badging is delicate and accurate. The stance and proportion represented on this replica are five-star. \$115, www.autoartmodels.com



1955 MERCEDES- BENZ 300SLR

Opening a CMC model for the first time is like Christmas, your birthday and the Fourth of July all in one. This model is superb and portrays one of the rarest, most iconic of all Mercedes cars. It's made up of more than 1,800 individual parts, and the details in 1:18 scale are amazing. The wire wheels, long a CMC forte, are authentically duplicated in size and wire-strand count and are mounted via central locking nuts that are side-specific. This is a must-have for the ardent scale-car collector. \$329, www.cmc-modelcars.de



1967 TOYOTA 2000GT

Gaining respect as an economy-car producer, Toyota stunned the motoring public in fall 1967 with the introduction of this diminutive, pavement-eating sports car. Innovative not only in design but also in construction, this two-seater was powered by a 2,000-cc DOHC six-cylinder engine that hit 60 mph in less than seven seconds. The Autoart image in 1:18 scale captures every nuance of the car. The paintwork, an unusual gold metallic, showboats all of the design innovations. Fully operational doors, lift-gate, drop-down component and storage panels, plus the flip-up headlights, make this model a standout. \$115, www.autoartmodels.com



1956 MERCURY MONTCLAIR & 1959 MERCURY PARK LANE

As Mercury exits the automotive landscape after 71 years, Sun Star pays homage to the greatness of the marque. The '50s were a glorious time for Mercury, as these examples show in 1:18 scale. Designed as part of the growing Platinum Series, the '56 Montclair Sport coupe (finished in persimmon and white) and the Canton red and Marble white '59 Park Lane are beautifully finished and accurate replications. The models are well-designed, with operable panels, tight-fitting parts, immaculate chrome work and the look and finish of more costly models. The '59 measures 14 inches, and the Montclair is a foot long. \$75, www.sunstartoys.com



1956 BUICK ROADMASTER RIVIERA

Danbury Mint builds 1:24-scale models to an unparalleled level of quality, detail and innovation. The latest die-cast confection is this three-tone (Carlsbad black, Seminole red, Cameo beige) 1956 Roadmaster Riviera four-door. The big news here is the integration of the popular four-door hardtop style into this scale, a first. Danbury pulls it off with its usual attention to detail. The fit and finish and numerous moving parts continue the company's reputation for quality. \$129, www.danburymint.com



1974-76 BRICKLIN SV-1

Bold, innovative, ambitious and somewhat star-crossed, the Bricklin SV-1 debuted in 1974, melding the sleekness and drive of a true sports car with the highest degree of safety. Designed by Herb Grasse, the SV-1 was virtually in a class by itself. The limited-run model cast in resin from Automodello was designed by renowned model maker Raffi Minasian and is a delight to the eye. The model shown is the initial offering (note the raised driver's-side door), to be followed by an iteration in every color Bricklin offered in its 1974-76 production run. This is a benchmark in precision 1:43 design and craftsmanship. \$195, www.automodello.com