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## ROAD TESTING HARLEY'S BRILLIANT 2018 SOFTTAILS

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Words &amp; Pics Michael Lichter

# OLD IRON

## YOUNG BLOOD

Motorcycles and the Next Gen 'Millennials' take over Sturgis ...

"You're crazy!" That's what I was told in August of 2016 when I first presented the idea of devoting the Motorcycles as Art exhibition of 2017, just one year later, to today's up and coming generation. 'It can't happen', 'They'll never show up' and a barrage of epithets were quickly hurled in my direction. At the same time, younger builders and artists that I mentioned it to were very excited about the prospect. I've learned a lot over the year it took to put this exhibition together with one of the most important things being that Millennials hate being called *Millennials!*

The fact that 37 builders, 10 helmet painters, six graphic artists and four photographers created their respective works and got them to the gallery on time in itself testifies that the stereotypes around the *Millennial* term don't fit, at least not for this group of artists. Most of the builders built their bikes just for the exhibition and none of the bikes were more than a few months old other than Ross Thomas', which was built not long before he died in 2014 (he would have been 23.) For that matter, almost all of the bikes were unveiled to the public for the very first time right in the gallery.

Technically, *Millennial* as a term just defines the generation that came of age starting in the year 2000. For the purpose of this exhibition, I included 35 year old artists and builders born in 1982 right down to 17 year old Duran Morley of RSD who was born in 2000. Generally speaking,



Custom builder  
Brad Gregory on stage  
with Michael Lichter.



Nikki Martin's 1999  
Harley-Davidson Evo Chopper  
and Karlee Cobb's Indian  
Scout rigid custom.





A de-raked style  
Evo custom built by  
Brad Gregory.



"Type 57X", a gold and  
black Shovelhead  
chopper built by  
Terence Musto.



"Space Cowboy", a purple  
Shovelhead chopper built  
by Justin McNeely.



"HotRod 45", built from a 1942  
Harley-Davidson Flathead by  
Christopher Milanowski.



"The Malungeon", a custom  
1929 Harley-Davidson JD built  
by Matt Harris.