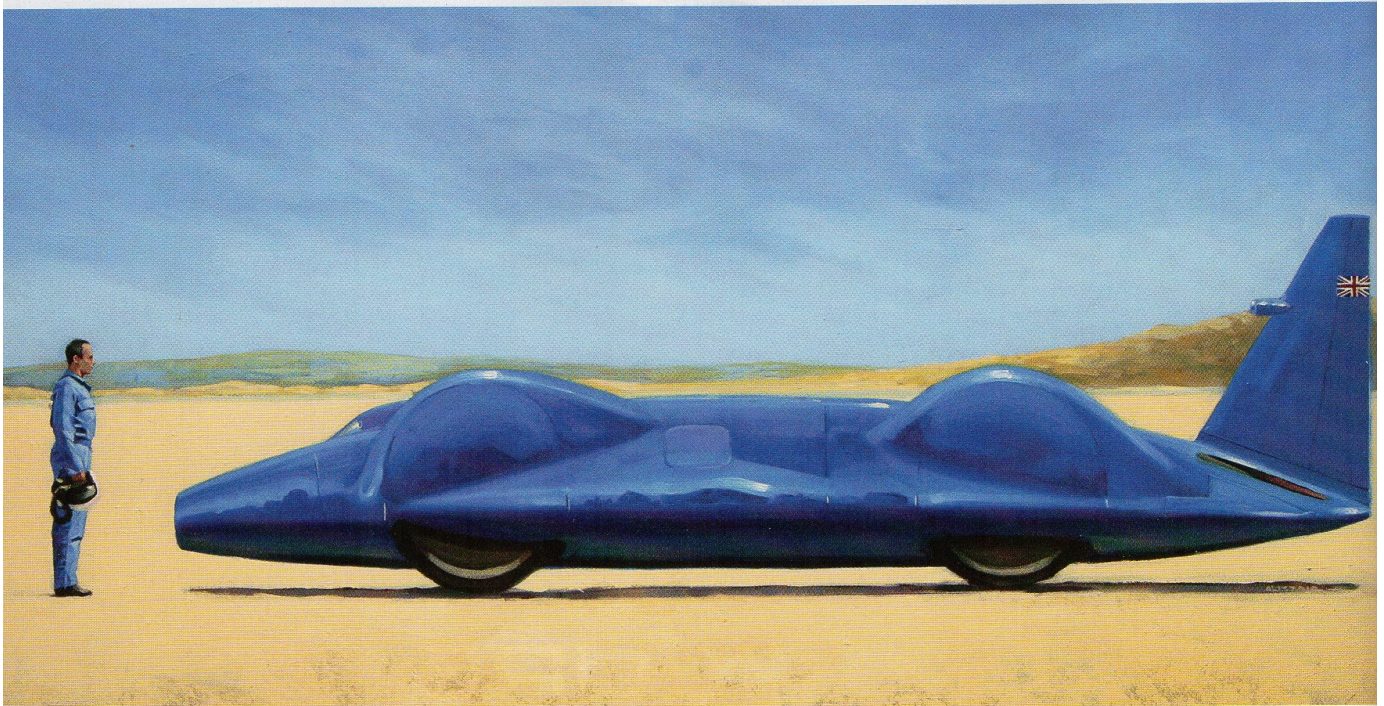
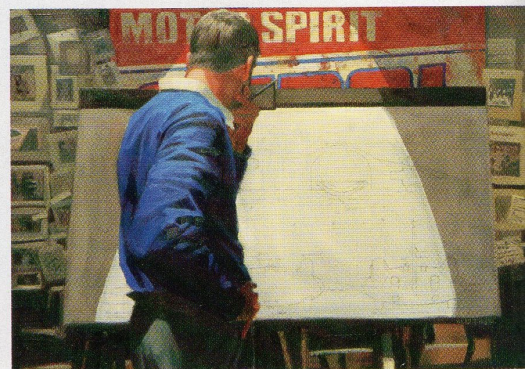


MOTORING ART



Clockwise, from above:  
A Moment Alone, at Lake  
Eyre in '64; Back to the  
Drawing Board; Off  
Course, with Humber  
support car at Bonneville  
in 1960; Immortalised,  
before tragic final run on  
Coniston Water in '67



# Alistair Little

## Painter's fascination with the Campbells

A chance meeting at the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* with record-breaker Don Wales – grandson of Sir Malcolm Campbell MBE and nephew of Donald Campbell CBE – led to Alistair Little's latest collection. "We got on really well at Brooklands and I invited him to my next private view," says Little. "The rebuild of his uncle's *Bluebird K7* was in the news, then Don showed me the Campbell archives and it started from there." The result was a 25-painting set related to *Bluebirds*, from Malcolm's Sunbeam to that fateful day in *K7* at Coniston.

Photo reference is a key starting point: "I could just have copied the shots but wanted to bring something new to the subject. Don told me lots of great stories, so I set out to capture the romance of the challenges. I've also used models."

Picturing the drama at such epic locations as Lake Eyre, Brooklands, Bonneville and Coniston suited Little's expansive compositions. In one work the *Bluebird-Proteus* is just a trail of dust on the horizon: "It's my favourite in the collection. I discovered a Humber support car and it gave me the idea of bunching the crew in the corner, watching *Bluebird* just before the crash."

Little switched back to art after becoming frustrated with making models for movies and TV. He was an illustrator for five years before finally taking up painting at 27:

"Working on one composition for a longer period was more my style, so I turned to painting – first with acrylics and then oils. I always knew I was never suited to a proper job."

"My early influences were Film Noir cinema and I used classic cars to set the mood," he adds. "One of my favourite movies is *Bad Day at Black Rock*. I love the vivid desert scenes, with blue sky, bright land and red petrol pumps." The American Ash Can School and Edward Hopper have also influenced him.

Little's next set is to focus on California, following a recent trip: "Like all English tourists, we hired an open Mustang and found some wonderful places on our drive from San Diego to San Francisco." MW

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Right, from top:  
**GB 1-USA 0, on Lake Mead 1955; Racing Time, Lake Dumbleyung, W Australia '64; Heading South, Utah 1960; Donald's wife Tonia Bern holds Mr Whoppit the teddy, in From the Sidelines, Bonneville 1960**

