



**'TO EXHIBIT AT  
THE NEW GP  
MUSEUM WOULD  
BE A LIFETIME-  
ACHIEVEMENT'**



RENATO MARQUES

**Q&A** JOÃO SALDANHA  
CREATOR OF MACAU GP LEGENDS COLLECTION

# 'To exhibit at the new GP Museum

**G**RADUATING from both product and graphic design, João Saldanha has started working for several companies in Portugal in the fields of product design, graphic design, illustration, and painting, as well as working as a freelancer.

Drawing and photography had been always present and followed alongside his career as passions and as his favorite means of expression, with acting as tools to aid his professional career.

Since 2013, Saldanha has embraced the illustration and painting of classic cars for Portuguese and international private collectors as full-time work. Saldanha was influenced by his early teenage years, when he used to draw the classic models of Ferrari as a hobby.

You can find Saldanha's works in many publications, from Portugal to several other countries and regions, as well as on specialty websites and online stores.

As both work purposes and inspiration, Saldanha often attends international classic car events such as "Retromobile" in Paris and "Spa Classic" in Belgium.

Back in November 2016, he presented in Macau his first solo international exhibition titled "Macau GP Legends – Motorsport Art by João Saldanha" at the Rui Cunha Foundation, in an event that took place during the Macau Grand Prix weekend.

Some of his best works belong to private collections in Portugal, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, USA,

Hong Kong, Macau, Australia, and South Africa.

To learn more about Saldanha and his works, namely the ones related to Macau, the Times spoke to the artist in an exclusive interview.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Most of your subjects are linked to the automotive world and racing. When did this interest start?**

**João Saldanha (JS) -** In my family, the interest in cars [goes back a very long way]. As I grew up in Cascais, just a few kilometers away from the Estoril Circuit, the noise of racecars was a usual thing in my life from an early age.

From there, I started to watch all the Formula 1 Grand Prix, but also countless test sessions. During these occasions, I tried to get closer to those powerful and beautiful machines every time.

At the same time, I started to cultivate a taste for design and cars immediately become my favorite topic.

**MDT - In 2016, you presented the Macau GP Legends Exhibition in Macau. How did this opportunity come about?**

**JS -** Even before traveling to Macau for the first time in October 2015 by invitation of some family members, I had already started the Macau GP Legends project, with paintings of Eduardo de Carvalho (the first GP winner), Michael Schu-

macher and Hans Stuck (the 1983 Guia Race winner), with others being studied for future paintings.

It was with these first paintings that I tried to capture the interest of some Macau institutions to have a future exhibition, especially the Grand Prix Museum, but [I was] without success.

In April 2016, when I returned to Macau, I decided to contact the Rui Cunha Foundation, which offered me an exhibition during the Grand Prix week in November that year. From that moment until the exhibition, I finished eight other works that joined the first three in the exhibition.

**MDT - Why use Macau as background for your works?**

**JS -** As a motorsport fan, I knew the famous Guia Circuit for many years, as most of the big names have raced there over the years.

My idea was always to produce a series of paintings showing some of the most relevant moments (and personalities) in the history of the Macau GP that could be shown to the public, preferably during the event.

The GP weekends always attract many fans from all over the world to the races and [I realized] that could also be an opportunity for me.

Additionally, I had not given up aiming to attract the Grand Prix Museum as one of the po-



tential parties interested in acquiring some of these works.

**MDT - Which technique gives you the most pleasure to use?**

**JS -** Although almost all of the works in the Macau GP Legends series were made in acrylic paint over canvas, the technique I feel most comforta-

ble with is watercolor on paper. It was with this technique that I started doing illustrations in my youth and I was able to perfect it when, some years ago, I decided to become professional.

The technique of acrylic paint over canvas came naturally with time, but in the case of the Macau paintings, the choice for this technique had

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**P**ETER Hickman confirmed expectations by emerging the fastest in the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix qualifying session yesterday.

Hickman, dubbed as the fastest road racer of our days, made it look easy by topping both sessions held yesterday morning and afternoon.

With a best lap time of 2:25.100, Hickman left the competition far behind, with the closest competitor being his teammate and Macau's victorious record holder Michael Rutter, at +1.738 of a second.

Hickman is probably one of the racers that clocked in fewer laps throughout the day, especially during

the early morning's free practice session where he did only a couple of fast-paced laps and then sat in the pits watching the timing of other participants who were practicing to improve their performance.

A similar strategy was taken for the qualifying session during the last event on the first day, with the track in a more favorable condition for taking risks, as several riders complained that the track was very dirty and slippery on the first run.

Due to more rubber on the track from the series of racing sessions from different categories, the Guia Circuit had better grip, resulting in an improvement in participants' timings.

At the top of the list,

## Motorcycle GP: Hickman s

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Peter Hickman

# would be a lifetime-achievement'



essentially to do with the transportation of the works, which in the case of watercolor requires extreme care due to the fragility of the material.

**MDT - How long does it take to create one of these works?**

**JS** - Time may vary depending on the complexity of the theme, the size of the work or

the technique used. In the case of the GP paintings, my goal was to portray the moments as accurately as possible, so there was some extra time involved in the fine detailing.

As an example, for the painting on display currently in Macau at the Macau Guia Circuit Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM)

third-anniversary exhibition, my starting point was a photograph I took of Michael Schumacher's car, which was on display at the GP Museum. The remainder of the work was a composition that I imagined and drew, inspired by several images of the event. From the initial idea to the final painting, it can take from one to two

weeks but for most illustrations, using paper support and watercolors, it usually takes from three to five days.

**MDT - Who are your clients? How can someone purchase one of your works?**

**JS** - My work is structured into two main areas: the author's works, and the orders. In

the first case, the projects come from my personal taste in car design and motorsport motifs, especially Formula 1 and Ferrari.

In the second case, the theme of the illustration is almost always a classic collection car and it is the customer who chooses how he prefers his car to be represented.

Usually, people interested in my works can easily reach me through my social media accounts, namely on Facebook or through my website or email.

I also participate regularly in classic car events, especially in Portugal, where I exhibit and sell directly to the public the latest works and also receive orders from customers in a direct manner.

**MDT - As you mentioned earlier, at the moment there is one of your works on display in Macau in a collective exhibition. Do you aim to exhibit again on your own?**

**JS** - The Macau GP Legends series is now composed of a total of 15 paintings and at this moment I cannot say whether there will be new works joining those in the series. The fact is that the Macau Grand Prix Museum is still closed for renovations and for such a long time created a long "stand-by time" concerning the fate of these paintings.

I still want to propose to the new Grand Prix Museum an exhibition of this series and may be some of them can become part of the permanent collection of the museum.

Besides my solo exhibitions, I have been keeping a continuous presence in Macau through the collaboration with APDCGM since 2017, organizing collective exhibitions.

## sets the pace in qualifying



Michael Rutter

Hickman remained untouched while Rutter qualified second.

Surprisingly, in third position was the legendary John McGuinness, who had placed in top positions but whose placing had dropped the last few years. McGuinness took his brilliantly prepared Ducati V4 Panigale to the third-best time, almost 2.1 seconds away from Hickman's time.

McGuinness was immediately followed by his teammate David Johnson on the second Ducati, confirming his credentials as a front-runner.

Closing the Top 5 was Horst Saiger with a secure and steady lap rhythm in the Yamaha R1.

Irishman Derek Sheils

took his Suzuki GSXR to the sixth position. Lee Johnson, Davey Todd, Didier Grams, and Erno Kostamo closed the Top 10 yesterday qualifying for the final race that takes place tomorrow afternoon.

Two underperforming participants were Gary Johnson, who placed 14th, and Ian Hutchison, placing 16th, two candidates who were expected to fight for the third step of the podium.

Early in this morning's second qualifying session is an opportunity for the two to solve the issues they had been facing to move into higher positions.

Both the sessions held on Thursday took place without incident, and the red flags were not used.

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**J**AKE Hughes clocked the best lap on the Guia Circuit during the FIA F3 World Cup qualifying session yesterday afternoon, taking the provisional pole for the 10-lap qualification race that will take place tomorrow morning.

The British driver from HWA Racelab beat German David Beckmann from Trident Motorsport to the pole in the first of two qualifying sessions with a time of 2:06.793.

In the process, Hughes also broke the fastest lap record around the Guia circuit in an F3 car.

Beckmann stayed right behind with a best lap time of 2:06.844, just 0.1 of a second faster than third-fastest Jüri Vips with 2:06.943.

Closing the Top 5 were Marcus Armstrong and Logan Sargeant, respectively, clocking times very close to the first few ones. Between the first and the fifth positions was a mere 0.619 of a second. It was only until the eighth-best time where there was a difference greater than one second, proving that the front runners are all very close and that the slightest mistake can bring about immediate consequences on the timesheets.

With the obvious evolution in speed and engine performance brought by the new specifications of formula cars, the times dropped on average by 3.5 seconds per lap, but it is expected that more records will be set over the weekend as the drivers gain more

# F3: HUGHES 'SHOWS THE CLAWS' TAKING PROVISIONAL POLE



Jak Hughes

confidence and the cars' setup is perfected by the teams.

Such adjustments were also the cause of several interruptions to the session after a sequence of red flags due to run-offs at Lisboa bend, with the race directors deciding not to restart the session after the last one.

Two very experienced racers, two-time champion Daniel Tick-

tum and Callum Ilott, waited for a slight split of a second coming from the flaw of another contender.

Completing the top 10 were two racers from SJM Prema Theodore Racing, Frederik Vesti and the 2019 FIA F3 Championship winner, Robert Shwartzman as well as ART Grand Prix's Christian Lundgaard.

These three are considered the "surprise group" from which significant improvement is expected as yesterday there was no clear indication on how fast they could perform on a clear track. The trio were faced with a sequence of yellow flags that undermined their launching laps when they were aiming to bring their times down.

More action will happen today with two sessions of the FIA F3 World Cup – the free practice race 2 where racers are expected to get out on track around 11:30 a.m., followed by the qualifying race 2 at 3:10 p.m.

The last race will finally decide the line-up of the grid for the qualification race on Saturday at 9 a.m.

AD

## 15th of November (Friday)

6:00 Circuit Closed  
 6:30 ~ 7:00 Circuit Inspection  
 7:30 ~ 8:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 53rd Edition - Qualifying  
 8:50 ~ 9:30 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Qualifying  
 9:50 ~ 10:20 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area GT Cup - Qualifying  
 10:40 ~ 11:10 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying  
 11:30 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 2  
 12:30 ~ 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 2  
 13:35 ~ 14:50 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Q1, Q2, Q3  
 15:10 ~ 15:50 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 2  
 16:10 ~ 16:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying  
 18:30 ~ \*\* Circuit Opened

## 16th of November (Saturday)

6:00 Circuit Closed  
 6:30 ~ 7:00 Circuit Inspection  
 7:10 ~ 7:50 Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps  
 8:00 ~ 8:40 Special Event  
 9:00 ~ 10:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps  
 10:25 ~ 11:25 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps  
 11:50 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 53rd Edition - Warm Up  
 13:05 ~ 14:05 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps  
 14:30 ~ 15:20 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 1 - 8 laps  
 15:55 ~ 16:55 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 53rd Edition - 12 laps  
 18:00 ~ \*\* Circuit Opened

## 17th of November (Sunday)

6:00 Circuit Closed  
 6:30 ~ 7:00 Circuit Inspection  
 7:10 ~ 7:50 Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps  
 8:20 ~ 9:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 2 - 8 laps  
 9:35 ~ 10:35 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area GT Cup - 12 laps  
 11:00 ~ 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 3 - 11 laps  
 12:25 ~ 13:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps  
 14:00 ~ 14:35 Special Event  
 15:10 ~ 15:20 Lion Dance  
 15:30 ~ 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - 15 laps  
 18:00 ~ \*\* Circuit Opened