



GRAVESEND CYCLES

MICHAEL COLE

IN THE HANDS OF MICHAEL COLE, A MOTORCYCLE IS BOTH A PIECE OF ART AND A HIGH-PERFORMING MACHINE.

This master builder of handmade bikes is as passionate about riding as he is meticulous about engineering and fine finishes. Over the past five years, collectors have begun to catch on to a talent that east coast motorcycle aficionados have known about for years. "Copper Mike," as he is known in riding circles, brings an artisanal touch to each of his one-off creations, infusing them with personality and flawless detailing both inside and outside. The results are perfectly tuned driving machines that are equally at home, on the road or in a gallery.

Gravesend Cycles, Cole's independent studio and shop, is based on Long Island. His client base comprises riders and collectors who recognize the sophisticated blend of vintage authenticity with contemporary edge. Expanding beyond his roots in Brooklyn and Long Island, his bikes have been featured in exhibitions in France and Monte Carlo. In this way, Cole has attracted a small but growing following in Europe, where his bikes are seen as emblems of American style. His distinctive choppers and bobbers have also received honors at all major US motorcycle shows.

This new collection of one-of-a-kind, vintage and contemporary bikes fulfills a promise that Copper Mike made to himself many years ago: To design and build his own bikes just as he envisions them, piece by piece, from the inside out, combining the best components and engineering with unsurpassed style. While the story and inspiration is different for each motorcycle, the building process begins when Cole fits a restored vintage motor into a frame of his design. Cole selects and adds new, restored, and handmade parts like pieces in a puzzle. Harmonious balancing and proportions are paramount. When it comes to finishing, Cole's attention to detail is unlike anything else in contemporary motorcycle design. Among the most refined examples of this concept is the singular ride known as Precious Metal. It was conceived and executed with all precious metal finishes: platinum gold leaf, 14-karat-gold accents, and his trademark copper. Both the finishing and the inner mechanicals are pushed to their utmost limits. More than just decorative, Cole's exquisite finishing is conceived as the expression of a bike's innate personality. The results are highly individual, rare, and collectible.

Cole's signature bike, a '39 Knuckle with hand-beaten copper tins gave him his industry name of Copper Mike. The finely sculpted and textured copper, lightweight yet robust, marked him as a true craftsman with vision. In addition to being a self-driven craftsman, Cole has often collaborated with a client or fellow builder to bring a shared vision to reality. In this way each motorcycle is a reflection not only of its pure engineering, but of the spirit of its creator and owner.