

Axel

Do motorcycles, an inanimate object of steel, alloys, rubber, oil, dirt and grit have soul? We think they do, and so does Axel Budde.

We like Axel here at Benzina, he's one of us and quietly doing God's work in the heart of Hamburg, Germany. His company, his religion - is called Kaffeemaschine - we took some time out with Axel and popped some questions his way. These are his thoughts...

WORDS: Shaun Power/Axel Budde PHOTOS: Axel Budde



KAFFEEMASCHINE



Q. When did you start Kaffeemaschine and why?

A. Two years ago, I was asked to build a bike and as my former job was about to be taken by computers, I took the opportunity.

Q. Where did you work before?

A. I did special constructions for car photography and precision driving.

Q. Did you learn your craft/engineering in a formal environment (school/university) or are you self-taught?

A. Self-taught.



AXEL BUDDE - KAFFEEMASCHINE



Q. What made you choose Moto Guzzis?

A. I'm riding them since I'm 20 and never wanted anything else. They are so impressive: the best combination of; a unique engine with lots of tuning potential while still being reliable, good suspension and brakes, even for modern requirements - the whole package rides very well and you can be pretty fast. The reduced cafe racer outfit with the slim frame and the massive engine is amazing, affordability/availability is good (though classic Guzzis are becoming more and more expensive) you can still get lots of technical parts from the newer models, which fit the old ones. ->

MOTO GUZZI . KAFFEEMASCHINE No.3
T3 California basis, 850ccm, 76hp, 181kg (dry).
Built by Axel Budde. Private commission for John Purser, UK.



B

Q. Would you consider producing something using a Ducati or Laverda as donor bike?

A. Yes, even one of my next projects will be a Yamaha SR.

Q. Does a motorcycle have soul?

A. If you don't feel the soul in my bikes, you don't have a heart.

Q. Where do you get your inspiration from for colours and finishes?

A. I still have lots of pictures of bikes I want to build in my head, which do not have a direct inspiration. I definitely was inspired by old English bikes and the 60's cafe racer style besides vintage race bikes, also the ones I see at races I take part.

Q. Who is your typical customer?

A. Definitely an enthusiast who treasures the qualities of such bikes and who wants to ride, not just to pose with a special motorcycle.

Q. How long does it take to build a new machine from donor bike to delivery?


A. Approximately 4 months.

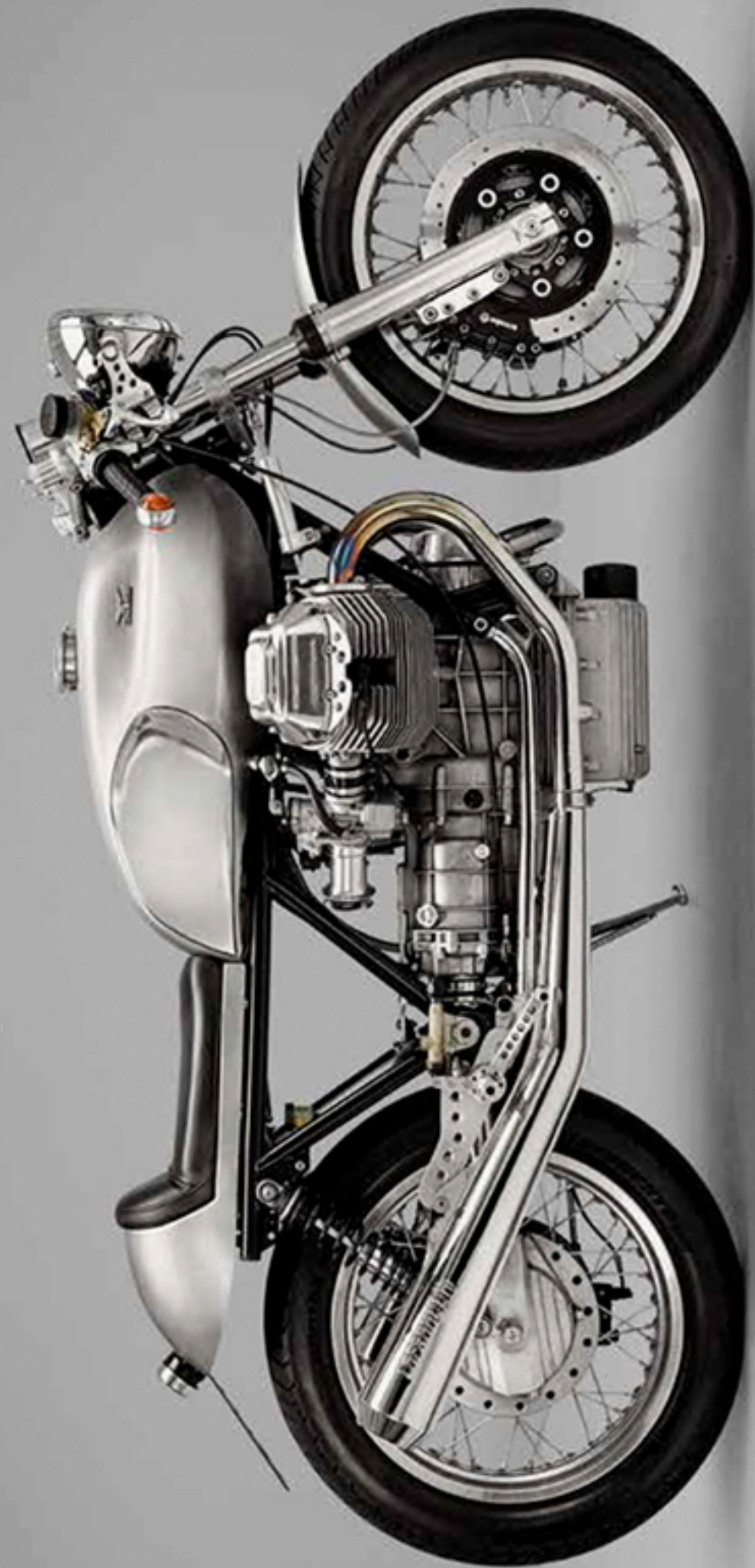
Q. How do you see the future of motorcycling? Electric bikes? Yes or no?

A. Electric bikes will conquer the cities as every day transport. As a contrast, I think people will choose classic bikes with character for their hobby, their "escapes", because they want to feel the pure way of "hugging this combustion engine", which will always be the most fascinating dialogue with a machine, which still is a machine- pounding, wild, but able to be understood and dominated by us in the moment/for the next years.

Q. How do you see the future of Kaffeemaschine?

A. I'm optimistic regarding my job and product, though I fear that today's and the future generations won't share the fascination anymore and within the next decades, these dinosaurs will disappear.

Thank you Axel. 



These images show just some of Axel's wonderful creations. For more, go online at: www.kaffee-maschine and you'll see the fruits of Axel's labour. You can also contact him there if you'd like to commission the bike of your (and our) dreams.



KAFFEEMASCHINE