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2017 SHANGHAI AUTO SHOW

The Chinese market for cars has been growing steadily since the mid-2000's, and now represents the largest share of the global auto market with the Asian giant taking up almost 28% of the share of global production capacity and nearly 20 million new vehicle registrations done in 2014 alone. With those kind of numbers, it's no wonder that the Shanghai Auto Show is important for established manufacturers to showcase their best tech and latest concepts, as well as for Chinese manufacturers to compete on the same floor with long running global brands. For the 2017 Shanghai Auto Show, everyone brought out their big guns.



Lynk&Co Concept 03

Lynk&Co is a sub-brand of Geely Auto, owners of Volvo. Few months ago they showcased a radical SUV concept, the 01, which promised to turn cars into smartphones via connectivity tech and an app-store. At Shanghai they showed off the 03 sedan with pretty much the same.



NextEV Nio EP9

As far as electric cars go, nothing screams proper intent like a hypercar with proper design. NextEV's Nio Ep9 is quite the looker, and apparently has the performance to match it. A pre-production model has been setting lap records everywhere.

Chery Tiggo Sport Coupe Concept

Chery's Tiggo is already a production model, but is nowhere as cool as this concept. If they can make it happen, the Tiggo will be a hot seller in today's SUV crazed world, especially in emerging markets. Lets hope they can pull it off.



Toyota Fengchao Way Concept

Toyota has been making cars specifically designed for China for about six years now, and the Fengchao Way is basically a CHR with two doors and a dragon face.



Audi e-Tron Sportback Concept

China is a hugely important market for Audi, and they reflected that by debuting their e-Tron Sportback at Shanghai. Think Audi TT with four doors and lifted track.



Chevrolet FNR-X Concept

If you haven't noticed a pattern already, China is the next global battleground for SUVs. FNR-X has what looks like a production ready body, minus the suicide doors.



Skoda Vision-E Concept

Skoda can do cool? Who knew. Volkswagen Group's often unloved Czech brand is expected to play a more active role in VAG's conquest of China, which is good news for Skoda.



Volkswagen ID-Crozz Concept

The third Volkswagen Group SUV concept displayed at Shanghai, the ID-Crozz is a way to hit home Volkswagen's message that they're in charge of SUVs in China.



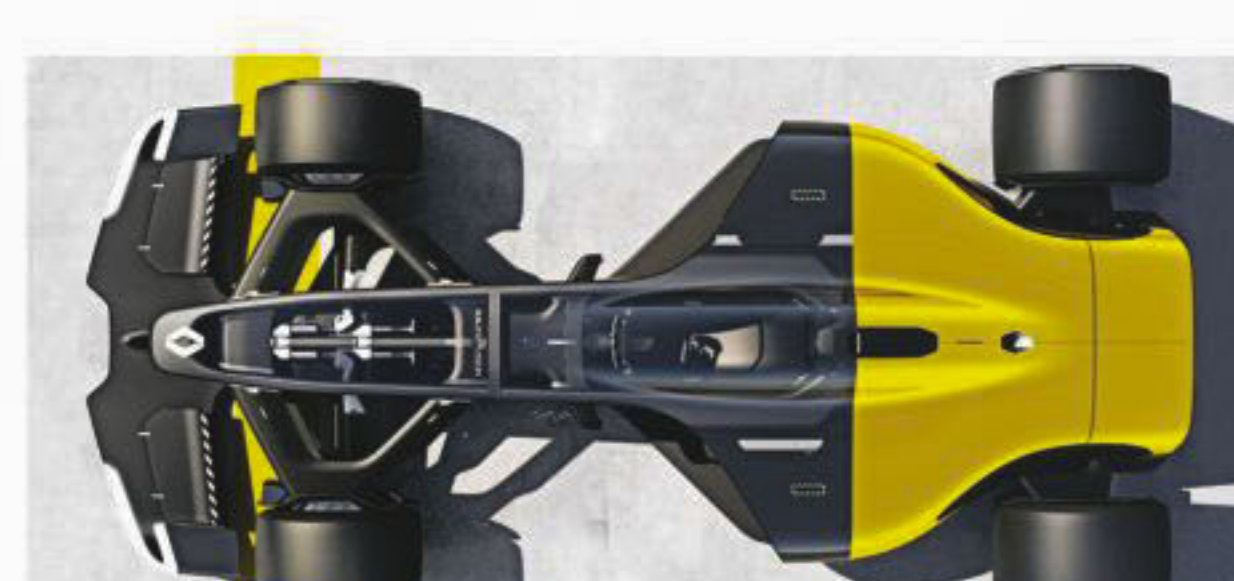
Jeep Yuntu Concept

This is not a new Jeep Wagoneer. For one, its not going to be designed for off-road. Instead, it's a means of maximizing people and luggage transport in dense urban centres.



MG E-motion Concept

MG, everyone's favourite British grandpa, refuses to die. Now in Chinese hands for well over ten years, the E-motion is the latest attempt at reviving the brand. Sleek.



Renault RS 2027 Vision Concept

Yet another Vision concept, Renault tried reimagining what a hardcore track car of the future could look like with the RS 2027. The canopy over the driver's head is cool stuff.



Mercedes Benz A Concept

Benz chose to showcase what could be their new line of urban friendly, entry level luxury cars. They'll still be fiendishly expensive, so it's a good thing the Chinese are loaded.



Citroen C5 Aircross

Citroen, masters of French quirkiness, launched what might be the coolest SUV of modern times (after the Volvo XC90, of course). The Aircross has marvelous proportions.



Mercedes Benz S-class Maybach

If you're a luxury marque looking to make money in China, you HAVE to have a long-wheel base special model for it. The all new Maybach line is thus crucial for Benz in China.



BMW M4 CS

BMW's M4 CS is super light thanks to CFRP construction, has 10 HP and 37 lb-ft more power and torque and laps the Nurburgring in 7 min 38 sec.

Chinese manufacturers you should look out for

In an increasingly globalised world, the Chinese are making headway towards an auto industry that can compete with the established brands of Asia, North America and Europe. Even five years ago, the majority of the Chinese brands, of which there are over twenty, were busy making half-baked copies of everything from Land Rovers to Smart. Now, things have changed. With a steady influx of designers lured away with incredible from established brands like BMW and Jaguar, as well as aggressive acquirement of or partnership with established brands, China's auto industry is at the cusp of a breakthrough to global recognition.

Haven't heard of the following brands yet? You will, soon enough.

Geely Auto

Geely used to make some of the worst passenger cars sold internationally - Bangladesh got a bunch and they were so bad to drive, ride or own, it was mind bending. The brand was hugely popular in China though, and in 2010 they had enough capital to buy off Volvo. They're so confident they've launched a new sub-brand to push cars modeled after suave Europeans...to the Europeans. They call it Lynk&Co, and their main USP is in promoting connectivity and human-vehicle interactions.

Great Wall Motors

They've been making quality heavy duty pickups for a while now, and Great Wall has successfully pivoted towards luxury SUVs recently as well. A strong presence in Australia and Malaysia (Bangladesh as well) has yielded strong growth and now they're looking to take over the SUV mar-



ket in other markets as well.

Chery

Started out by making basic as bones hatchbacks and small sedans loosely based off defunct GM models. Back then, Chery cars came with door pads thinner than your jeans and the colours madder

their cars look like plastic decoration fruits. All that is about to change, because in 2012 Jaguar-Land Rover formed a 50-50 joint venture with Chery, which was founded in 1997 and is currently owned by the Chinese government, to produce JLR vehicles in China.

BYD Auto

BYD Auto is one of the largest expanding manufacturers in China, having recently started operations in North America, with Leonardo DiCaprio as its brand ambassador, nonetheless. In China they have a 50-50 joint venture with Daimler AG, and currently produces widely exported commercial and heavy vehicles.

Dongfeng Motor

Dongfeng has more partnerships with global carmakers than any other, and hold most of the contracts in China to produce cars for brands like Citroen, Honda, Nissan-Renault, Peugeot and KIA. In 2014, they were the second largest Chinese automaker, with passenger cars being sold under the Fengshen name.

Others: Zotye, Lifan, Foday

Head online for a comprehensive list of promising Chinese manufacturers.

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