

# MARTINA KWAN

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT – FEMALE RACERS



I was born in Hong Kong where my older sister and I were exposed to the English, German and Chinese languages at the same time. Both my Chinese and German heritage had typically stringent set of expectations for their children. And so, I've always set the bar very high for myself, in whichever endeavors I choose to pursue.

After living in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon from 8 to 10 years old, we moved to my Mother's hometown of Hamburg, Germany. It was very easy to assimilate into Germany's peaceful society after living in a war zone. In fact, the experience of living through war in Beirut made me quite **fearless** as a person, and any other city I moved to afterwards, was no problem after experiencing a war. It became very easy for me to adapt to any situation in life.

**“ I BELIEVE IN LIFE;  
IT IS IMPORTANT TO  
TACKLE ANYTHING YOU DO  
WITH CONFIDENCE**

#### RACING AMBITIONS

I was the only woman walking into the Porsche Owners Club registration room in 2015, they welcomed me as they would welcome any man or woman. The difference is that I personally knew that I was the only female, but now, I am one of less than a handful of female racers that walk into the registration room.

Currently, there are only about 5 active female Porsche Owners Club drivers.

The point is that while it was alright for me to be the only female, it would typically be an uncomfortable situation for most women, but I am hoping to inspire girls and women to change this. It's ok to be different and try new things even if many other women choose not to.

I live in Metropolitan Los Angeles, California and as such, fortunately, there are more women here represented in Motorsports than most parts of the United States or the World. I have gradually over the past several years met many other incredible women interested in Motorsports, through women's only events, and at supercar shows that I like to attend with my Porsche GT3RS.

#### GOALS FOR 2019

Goals this year include winning the GT4 Class Time Trial Championship with Porsche Owners Club, which will mark my third POC Championship in a row and converting my provisional Porsche race license into a full-on race license by racing in 6 provisional races by the end of 2019.

I will be competing in GT4 class with Porsche Owners Club, which is one of the United States' most revered and competitive Porsche Club Racing clubs

#### CAR COLLECTION

I still own the car that I consider the most important and dear to me in my life. My favorite and most special car was and still is my black Porsche 2009, 997.2 911 that I bought in Miami in 2011.



I own the following cars:

Porsche 911 – 997.2 911 Black Porsche 911

Porsche 911 – GT3RS GT Silver

Porsche Cayenne S

Co-own an AMG CLK63 Black Series Race Car with Dwain Dement of Vision Motorsports

#### INSPIRATIONS

If we want to be successful in our endeavors, we must work for it, and try until it works. Success is a function of setting a high bar of excellence, of applying oneself using critical thinking skills, and working hard and tirelessly to make things happen. It means studying hard, it means working hard. It means working harder than others, taking pride in one's work, triple checking one's work to make sure it's right when it's presented.

Success means perseverance and dedication, and NOT giving up, that distinguish a true leader from a follower. Success takes believing in oneself and doing the right thing, not only in business, but as a person. At the end of the day, are we proud of who we are, and do we act in a manner that we ourselves respect?

There are no excuses or shortcuts to achieving success. Either one works for it, or one doesn't. Those who work for it have a much greater likelihood of succeeding, whereas those who don't will not be guaranteed success. There is absolutely no substitute for hard work and determination, and not giving up when one faces inevitable obstacles in the road to success.

**“FEMALE RACE CAR DRIVER AND PORSCHE  
CONNOISSEUR”**





Being able to adapt to change also applies to every nanosecond on the racetrack. Being able to respond on a moment's notice to changing conditions, car positions, debris on the racetrack for example, and being able to choose one's race strategies as if by second nature I've learned, is one of the keys of being a winner.

1. **Focus** – Success takes setting goals and focusing on them
2. **Determination** – Success takes having an important purpose and pursuing it with resoluteness
3. **Ambition to Succeed** – Those who are most successful have a desire, a need to be successful. They have a need to be #1, they have a need to be the best, they do not accept being #2 as an option.

What I do know, is that if I happen to get too excited or intent on winning, this has its drawbacks, and I typically end up driving slower because I am in my own head too much.

Before I go on track I prepare by thinking about the old Bruce Lee quote:

"Be Like Water, my Friend" The most important thing I've learned is that driving a race car **smoothly** around the track like my Race Coach Dwain Dement of Vision Motorsports has taught me and shown me with his incredible driving, is the fastest way around any race track.

So while I am sitting on the grid waiting to drive, I reflect on what it means to "Be Like Water". I remind myself to keep my cool and be smooth. I remind myself there is the right moment to seize an opportunity. The smoothest actions will yield the best and fastest results. **There is a lot of psychology involved in racing cars.** It is important to observe how other drivers behave, the key is that chances are that some other drivers will lose their cool especially at the very beginning, and these moments present valuable opportunities to forge ahead and pass them in their moment of weakness. I breathe out deeply into my hands three times and I go.

The reality of racetracks is that each racetrack has a limit. My limit in my prepared Porsche 911 GT4 class race car is 148 miles per hour at Auto Club Speedway in California, whereas it is physically impossible to reach this speed at a different racetrack such as Willow Springs. In a different car, it might be faster.

#### FINAL THOUGHT

Her Porsche 911 she calls Firehorse, truly changed her life. It became a symbol of who she is, helping to recapture her essence that she had lost along the way. It helped her to remember who Martina is and her message is simple to #befearless #beyou and #daretobedifferent. As a human being, Martina is: #loving #honest and #understanding.