

# LIFE'S JOYOUS MOMENTS ON VIEW AT HOLDEN LUNTZ GALLERY

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By Jan Sjostrom  
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Summer usually is a time to kick back and relax. But off-season hiatuses are a thing of the past at Holden Luntz Gallery.

Even if traffic is light on Worth Avenue, the gallery's business is year-round, thanks to the Internet. Luntz estimates that his two websites generate 25 to 33 percent of sales.

Still, leisure reigns supreme on the gallery walls, where "Let the Good Times Roll" is on display. The 40 photographs dating from 1905 to 2010 are designed to put you in a vacation state of mind.

"We want to show pictures that will make people smile when they look at them," Luntz said.

The show was curated by staff members Kyle Harris and Cecilia Silva.

"We didn't want to do a normal summer show with summer and outdoor themes," Harris said. "We came up with the theme of joy and how photographers take on that iconic theme. It lets us meditate on day-to-day happenings and life's little, joyous moments."

The mood is set the moment you walk in the door, when you encounter Jim Lee's *Loli, Red Shoes*.

The large-scale color photograph portrays a powder-blue vintage Mustang convertible parked in the middle of a desert. The sole passenger seems to have landed much like a turtle on its back. All you can see of her are her white arms and legs and the red flecks of her high heels and nail polish.

For sheer joie de vivre, few could surpass Jacques-Henri Lartigue. Born into a privileged family in France in 1894, he took up photography as a child. He shot many pictures of his friends and family at play, including one taken when he was 11 of his cousin seemingly flying down a flight of steps (Cousin "Bichonade" in *Flight*). Lartigue's genius wasn't discovered by the wider world until 1964 when his work was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Jim Lee was on a cross-country trip from California to the East Coast in 2010 when he shot "Loli, Red Shoes" in Death Valley.



Jacques-Henri Lartigue photographed Cousin "Bichonade" in *Flight* in 1905.



Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe were young unknowns in 1969 when Norman Seeff photographed them in a friend's kitchen in New York.



Sabine Weiss photographed "Naples" (Nuit, Velo a Naples) in 1955.

Perhaps the photographers who best express the spirit of the show are the French humanists, such as Robert Doisneau, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Sabine Weiss.

Weiss was known for capturing atmospheric light effects. In her 1955 black and white image of a bicyclist cycling in Naples at night, sparks from fireworks held by a man on the sidewalk turn a fleeting moment into high drama.

A section devoted to the arts includes several photographs by Norman Seeff, whose images of celebrities include album art for The Rolling Stones and The Eagles and a 1984 portrait of the young Steve Jobs that ran on the cover of Time magazine when the entrepreneur died in 2011.

Seeff was newly arrived in New York from his native South Africa in 1969 when he met Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith. The lifelong friends were unknowns when Seeff photographed them in the kitchen of a friend's apartment.

What would a summer show be without lovers?

As long as we started this story with a car, we might as well end with one Elliott Erwitt shot in 1955 in Santa Monica, Calif. The reflection of lovers kissing floats like a voyeur's dream in his black and white photograph focusing on the side-view mirror of a car parked at the seashore.

If You Go

What: Let the Good Times Roll

When: through Sept. 26

Where: Holden Luntz Gallery, 332 Worth Ave.

For information call 805-9550 or visit [holdenluntz.com](http://holdenluntz.com)