

JACQUES HENRI LARTIGUE

1894

13 June, Jacques Lartigue is born in Courbevoie, near Paris, in the home of his parents, Marie Haguet and Henri Lartigue. His older brother, Maurice, nicknamed «Zissou,» was born on August 2, 1880. They are considered one of the wealthiest families in France.

1900

Jacques Lartigue uses his father's camera to take his first photos. He starts noting his thoughts and impressions on scraps of paper. This is the beginning of his diary.

1902

Henri Lartigue gives Jacques his first camera : a 13x18 cm model with a manual shutter. The young boy takes and develops photographs on his own and starts pasting them into albums, the contents of which he later reorders. In all, he would leave put together 130 of these books.

1904

The cameras given to him by his father are increasingly sophisticated, light and easy to handle. Now he can shoot anything, even in motion. He can also create a three-dimensional effect using a stereoscopic camera (in the years up to 1928, he takes some 5,000 stereoscopic pictures).

He learns how to use multiple exposures and photographs "ghosts";

1907

Fascinated by flying machines, Jacques and his brother begin to make frequent trips to airfields. They witness the test flights of the first airplanes.

1908

Thanks to Jacques's membership card for the Ligue Aérienne, a club to which all the pilots of the day belong, he is able to photograph such notable early aviators as Garros, Latham, Paulhan, Lefèvre, Farman and Blériot.

1911

During the course of his strolls in the Bois de Boulogne, Lartigue photographs the fashionable "élégantes"; He sells his first pictures, to the newspaper La Vie au Grand Air.

1912

Lartigue acquires a new stereoscopic camera, a folding Nettel 6x13 which allows him to take panoramic views. His father gives him a Pathé film camera. The following year he sells his first sports films to a newsreel company.

1913

In January, he photographs Santos-Dumont, Graham White and Max Linder at Saint-Moritz.

1914-1918

January: in Chamonix, he takes film footage and still photos of the brother of Ferdinand de Lesseps on his propeller-driven sled.

August 3: Germany declares war on France. Jacques Lartigue is deferred from the draft for reasons of health.

Jacques Lartigue decides to become a painter and attends the Académie Jullian.

May 19: he meets Madeleine Messenger, whom he nicknames "Bibi";

1919

December 17: Jacques Lartigue marries Madeleine Messenger. Her father, the composer André Messenger, is a former director of the Opéra Comique in Paris, Covent Garden in London and the Paris Opera.

1921

His father buys a Hispano-Suiza 32 HP. Jacques makes much use of the car to travel around France.

He devotes more and more time to painting: bouquets, gardens and portraits are his favorite themes.

He produces his finest autochrome plates in the park of the Château de la Garoupe, on the Côte d'Azur.

August 23: birth of his son, Dani.

1922

Lartigue exhibits at the Galerie Georges Petit and at several Parisian art salons. This is the beginning of his career as a painter. He meets the colorist Kees Van Dongen.

Also at this time, he makes the acquaintance of Maurice Chevalier and the film director Abel Gance, who on several occasions suggests that they work together.

This is also the beginning of his friendship with two French stage stars, Sacha Guitry and Yvonne Printemps.

1923

His father experiencing financial issues, he sells the family castle in Rouzat. Jacques looks for a job but quits after three days, unable to let go of his freedom.

1924-1929

Birth of his second child, Véronique. Yvonne Printemps and Sacha Guitry are the godparents. The baby lives only a few months.

1930

March: Jacques Lartigue meets Renée Perle, a model of Romanian origin. For the next two years she is his companion and his favorite model for paintings and photos.
He exhibits once again at the Galerie Georges Petit and at the Salon d'automne.

1934

March 12: he marries Marcelle Paolucci, or "Coco", as she is called. Her father is head electrician at the Cannes and Deauville casinos.

1935

Lartigue has acquired a certain reputation as a painter – and now has to earn a living with his art. Like Van Dongen and Picabia, he offers his services as an interior decorator, working on the galas at the Cannes casino: "Fleurs et Papillons", "Gala multicolore", "Grande Duchesse" and "Marché aux fleurs", etc. His exhibition of portraits (Van Dongen, Sacha Guitry, Marlene Dietrich, Georges Carpentier and Joan Crawford) at the Galerie Jouvène in Marseille is a great success.

1942

January 12: he meets Florette Orméa in Monte Carlo.

1945

August 28: he marries Florette Orméa.
The couple divides its time between Paris and Piscop in Val-d'Oise.

1946

September : Lartigue attends the first Cannes International Film Festival, originally planned for 1939. Long a habitué of the film studios, he becomes an annual fixture at this event.

1950

He acquires a Rolleiflex 6x6 and starts taking color shots again, selling a number of photos to the press.

1953

While a guest of André Dubonnet at Cap d'Antibes, he meets a young, little-known American Senator, John F. Kennedy. Ten years later, the issue of Life magazine covering JFK's assassination also carries the first major article on the photographer Jacques Henri Lartigue.

1954

Foundation of the society Gens d'Images with Lartigue as vice-chairman.
Albert Plécy publishes Lartigue's photos in Point de vue et Images du Monde.

1955

Gens d'Images organizes a photography show at the Galerie d'Orsay in Paris with works by Brassai, Doisneau, Man Ray and Lartigue.

1957

Jacques travels to Havana with Florette for an exhibition of his paintings. Fidel Castro and his guerrillas have just begun their campaign in the Sierra Maestra. Jacques is forced to leave his canvases behind when he journeys on to Mexico and New Orleans.

1960

Lartigue buys and moves into a house in Opio, near Grasse.

1962

While in New York, he presents his early 20th-century photos to Charles Rado of the Rapho agency and to John Szarkowski, Director of the Photography Department at the Museum of Modern Art.

1963

Exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, entitled The Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue. Publication of a portfolio in Life. His reputation as an outstanding photographer has been established.

1974

26 August : Jacques Henri Lartigue is appointed official photographer to mark Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's seven years as president.

1975

First French retrospective of Lartigue's work at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris : Lartigue 8x80.
Jacques does photo shoots for fashion and decoration magazines. He takes photographs in Guernsey during the filming of « Adèle H » by François Truffaut with Isabelle Adjani.

1979

June 26: Lartigue signs over his entire photographic output to the French government.

1980

The donation is celebrated by an exhibition, Bonjour Monsieur Lartigue, at the Galeries Nationales of the Grand Palais, Paris. Then it goes on world tour.

1986

September 12: death of Jacques Lartigue in Nice

EXPOSITIONS/EXHIBITIONS

2015

Lartigue, la vie en couleurs, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (France)
« Lartigue's Riviera », Turku Art Museum (Finlande)
« J.H. Lartigue, un amateur de génie », Museo Ettore Fico, Turin (Italie)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, le plus grand photographe amateur au monde, Fuji Film Photo History Museum (Japon)
Lartigue père et fils, Musée de Colmars les Alpes (France)
Lartigue père et fils, Château de la Messardière, Saint-Tropez (France)
« La vie au grand air », The Epoch Museum, WenZhou (Chine)

+ EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES

Platinum, Master Prints from 31 Studio, The Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock Abbe (Grande Bretagne)
On the Move, Kunst im VDA, Behrenstrasse 35, 10117 Berlin (Allemagne)

2014

Jacques Henri Lartigue, a vida em movimento, Institut Moreira Salles, San Paolo (Brésil)
Bibi, Photobiennale, Maison de la Photographie, Moscou (Russie)
Shoji Ueda et J.H. Lartigue, Metropolitan Museum of Photography de Tokyo (Japon)
Winter in Amsterdam, Gallery Vassie, Amsterdam (Pays-Bas)
La Belle Epoque, J.H. Lartigue, Domaine de Trevarez (France)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, Bibliothèque des sciences et technologies, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgique)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, diario de un siglo, Valladolid (Espagne)
Lartigue : La vie au grand air, Festival Foto Lianzhou, Candy Factory (Chine)
Iconic Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue – the Platinum Prints, Canberra (Australie)
Festival Photographique de Mèrignac, Exposition sur les vitres de l'aèroport (France)

+ EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES

Picasso and the Camera, Gagosian Gallery, New York (Etats-Unis)
Lignes de front, le tennis en 14-18, Musée de la Fédération française de tennis (France)
François Truffaut, l'exposition, Cinémathèque française, Paris (France)
Défilé Alpin : La Mode et la Montagne du 18e siècle à nos jours, La Chàtagnière, Yvoire (France)
Nouveau musée consacré à Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Château d'Estaing, Estaing (France)
François Lartigue, Villa Beatrix Enea, Anglet (France)

2013

Bibi, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles (France)
The Photographers Gallery, London (Grande Bretagne)
Vive la vie (coup de coeur de Robert Delpire), Festival photo de La Gacilly (France)
Rivages, Maison de la Photographie, Toulon (France)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, a vida em movimento, Institut Moreira Salles, Rio de Janeiro (Brésil)
Iconic Images of Lartigue, the platinum prints, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne (Australie)
Lartigue, émerveillé, Jeu de Paume, Château de Tours, Tours (France)
Chic, le sport, Saut Hermès au Grand Palais, Paris (France)
Les envols, Musée français de la carte à jouer, Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)

+ EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES

Désir de Collection, Espace Malraux, Lyon (France)
Surgis de l'ombre, Galerie Alain Paire, Aix-en-Provence (France)
Tamara de Lempicka, Pinacothèque de Paris (France)

2012

Movement, Fundacion Municipal de Cultura, Valladolid (Espagne)

2010

Double je, Jacques Henri Lartigue, peintre et photographe, Musée d'art et d'histoire Louis Senlecq, L'Isle-Adam (France)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, un monde flottant, Première présentation à la Caixa Forum, Barcelone (Espagne)

2009

Lartigue, effort et volupté, Rendez-vous de l'Histoire de Blois, Maison du Loir-et-Cher, Blois (France)

2008

J.H. Lartigue pendant la Belle Époque, Guangdong Museum of Art, Er-sha Island, Guangzho (Chine)

2007

La Belle Epoque, Festival Fashion and Style organisé par The Moscow House of Photography, Moscou (Russie)

2006

Lartigue ou l'art du fugitif, Tennisium de Roland Garros, Fédération Française de Tennis, Paris (France)

2004

Jacques Henri Lartigue : a boy, a camera, an era, University of Florida (Etats-Unis)
Il faudra inventer d'autres mots quand on voudra raconter le paradis, Galerie Blondeau à Genève (Suisse)

2002

Lartigue en hiver, Musée Alpin, Chamonix (France)
Lartigue, l'album d'une vie, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (France)
Jacques Henri Lartigue au Pays Basque, Casino Bellevue, Biarritz (France)

1997

La côte d'azur de Jacques Henri Lartigue, Hôtel de Sully, Paris (France)

1995

Rétrospective d'un amateur de génie, Bunkamura Museum of Art – Shibuya, Tokyo (Japon)

1994

Souvenirs de mon bonheur, Galleria Art Hall, Séoul (Corée du Sud)
Lartigue centenary, The Photographers' Gallery, Londres (Angleterre)
Lartigue a cent ans, Espace Electra, Fondation Electricité de France, Paris (France)

1993

En route monsieur Lartigue, Grand Palais des Champs Elysées, Paris (France)

1992

Jacques Henri Lartigue à l'école du jeu, Grand Palais, Paris (France)
Jacques Henri Lartigue, Tarazona, Valence, Logrono, Pamplona, Gijon, Bilbao, Huesca, 1991-1992 (Espagne)

1990

Rivages, Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées, Paris (France)
Volare, Galerie Eralov, Rome (Italie)

1989

Les envois de Jacques Henri Lartigue, Grand Palais, Paris (France)

1988

Moi et les autres, Grand Palais, Paris (France)

1987

Le bonheur du jour 1902-1936, Théâtre Valli à Reggio-Emilia (Italie)

1986

Le troisième oeil de Jacques Henri Lartigue, Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées, Paris (France)

1983

Femmes de mes autrefois et de maintenant, Grand Palais, Paris (France)

1982

Bonjour Monsieur Lartigue, International Center of Photography, New York (Etats-Unis)

1981

Vingt années de découverte à travers l'oeuvre de Jacques Henri Lartigue, Ouverture d'une salle d'exposition permanente au Grand Palais, Paris (France)
Sacha Guitry et Yvonne Printemps, Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées, Paris (France)
Paysages, Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées, Paris (France)
Tennis, Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées, Paris (France)

1980

Bonjour monsieur Lartigue, Exposition d'accueil de la Donation, Grand Palais, Paris (France)

Expositions réalisées et présentées avant la donation

1975

Lartigue 8 x 80, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, première grande rétrospective de Jacques Henri Lartigue en France, Paris (France)

1963

The photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue, Musée d'Art Moderne de New York (Etats-Unis)

1955

Première présentation de photographies de Jacques Henri Lartigue, Galerie d'Orsay, Paris (France)

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Editions Gallimard, collection Découvertes, Paris 2009

La Belle Epoque, photographs by Jacques Henri Lartigue, Textes de Salma Zarhloul, Laura Ning et Martine d'Astier
Beijing, China 2008

Lartigue et les autos de courses, Texte de Pierre Darmendrail
Éditions Motors Mania, Pau 2008

Lartigue ou le plaisir de la photographie, Texte de Claire Stoullig
Editions Somogy, Paris 2004

Jacques Henri Lartigue Hidden depths, Texte de Bill Hibbert
Design for life, Great Britain 2004

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En route Monsieur Lartigue, Texte de Dany Lartigue
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Editions Flammarion, Paris, 2002

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