

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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LARTIGUE: PANORAMAS OF THE TWENTIES
January 15 - March 24, 1987

An exhibition of the work of French photographer Jacques-Henri Lartigue begins its American tour at The Museum of Modern Art, opening on January 15 and continuing through March 24, 1987. Organized by Isabelle Jammes, curator of the Lartigue archives of the government of France, this exhibition is devoted to photographs taken between 1922 and 1931 and was first presented in 1985 at the Grand Palais, Paris. Lartigue, who died last year at the age of ninety-two, had his first public showing as a photographer at The Museum of Modern Art twenty-three years ago when his pictures were largely unknown.

All the photographs included in the current exhibition were made with a 6x13 cm Nettel camera, a stereoscopic device that could be adopted for use with a single lens. In these images, Lartigue captures fleeting moments filled with the atmosphere of the period. France between the wars is recorded in a panoramic format more commonly used for landscape, but employed here with bold originality to capture dynamically active subjects.

According to John Szarkowski, director of the Department of Photography, Lartigue began as a "true primitive," an extraordinarily talented child who, before the age of ten, had made pictures which, "seem an astonishing anticipation of the best small-camera work done a generation later." Lartigue was born near Paris in 1896 to a prosperous and fashionable family that embodied the spirit of the time. He photographed his family members swimming, bicycling, racing cars and bobsleds, and flying the kites and gliders they designed and built themselves. During the twenties and thirties Lartigue was

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widely exhibited as a painter, although his involvement with photography continued. The current exhibition provides an opportunity to assess the photographer's mature work.

Following its New York showing, LARTIGUE: PANORAMAS OF THE TWENTIES will tour to the Chicago Art Institute (April 11 - June 28, 1987).

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.