



HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

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HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM TO LAUNCH NEW TRAVELING EXHIBIT “WITH A LOVING EYE: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF JINI DELLACCIO”

On View at Harbor History Museum November 18, 2017 – April 29, 2018



Gig Harbor, WA – Thanks to a generous gift from the Jini Dellaccio Collection, Harbor History Museum is excited to announce that the work of photographer Jini Dellaccio (January 31, 1917 – July 3, 2014) will not only be making its return to Harbor History Museum in November, 2017, it will also be the inaugural exhibit in Harbor History Museum’s new Traveling Exhibition service. The remarkable collection of fashion, music, and portrait photography in stunning, large prints debuted at Harbor History Museum in 2012. *With A Loving Eye* will premiere at the Harbor History Museum in an expanded form through a partnership with the [University of Washington’s Special Collections](#) with the goal of sharing Dellaccio’s story across the nation.

Jini Dellaccio left a legacy of breathtaking imagery, capturing time, place and people with uncompromising precision. Her ability to emotionally bond with her subjects lends an intimate quality to her work that is difficult to convey in her chosen medium. It is a measure of the complexity of this artist that her most memorable work involves sympathetic portraits of menacing proto-punk garage bands from the working-class towns of the Pacific Northwest.

A teaching position in Tacoma beckoned the Dellaccios to Gig Harbor in 1962, and Jini’s passion for photography blossomed. The Dellaccio home in Gig Harbor was designed for them by famed modernist architect Alan Liddle. It was amidst the lush waterfront environment that much of Dellaccio’s signature work was created. Her stylistic approach reflected the era’s prominent Northwest School art movement, which found painters, architects, designers and photographers embracing the natural surroundings of the region. Dellaccio frequently photographed her subjects in and around her Gig Harbor property.



During this time, Dellaccio photographed bands such as The Sonics, The Wailers, The Who, The Daily Flash, and singer-songwriter Neil Young. Dellaccio's ability to capture perfectly composed, seemingly candid portraits landed her credits on numerous album covers.

In addition to rock photography, Dellaccio became known for innovative fashion photography. Living in Long Beach, CA, Dellaccio discovered a love of fashion. "I was a self-taught fashion photographer," explained Jini. "But how could you miss with such beautiful girls?" Dellaccio helped young women such as model Helen Johnson develop portfolios that were presented to modeling agencies in Los Angeles. Back in the 1960s, female fashion photographers were nearly unheard of. "The ad agency was floored when they found out I was a woman," said Dellaccio.

While Jini Dellaccio passed in 2014, at the age of 97, her legacy lives on through the remarkable imagery captured with her loving eye. The Harbor History Museum recently received the exhibit and University of Washington Special Collections were given Dellaccio's prints and negatives. Together, they are working to expand the exhibit through a series of digital images featuring Dellaccio's rock and fashion photography.

To support the exhibit's production and programming, the Harbor History Museum is launching its first ever Kickstarter Campaign on October 19, 2017. Supporters of the campaign will reap rewards such as exclusive invitations to opening events and products related to the exhibit. Our Kickstarter Campaign can be found at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1456369661/launch-a-traveling-exhibit-share-the-jini-love>.

An array of public programs will accompany the exhibit, including a special screening of *Her Aim is True*, a documentary film by director/screenwriter Karen Whitehead and a unique museum-school partnership program called "Project Mid-Way" that's a unique spin on the popular fashion design show "Project Runway."

With a Loving Eye: The Photography of Jini Dellaccio will run through April 29, 2018 and then be available for booking throughout the United States starting in May 2018.

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Image credits:

***Self portrait (1960)* by Jini Dellaccio**

***The Sonics (Gig Harbor, 1965)* by Jini Dellaccio**

About Harbor History Museum: Harbor History Museum creates opportunities to experience the heritage of the greater Gig Harbor communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing the rich history of the area. With our new Traveling X program, we offer intriguing exhibits that have roots in the Gig Harbor-Peninsula area and branches of national significance. The Museum provides a gathering place and a sense of identity for our community. Founded in 1964, the Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society dba Harbor History Museum opened its new facility in 2010. The Museum campus includes an 1893 fully restored one-room school house; a 65-foot fishing vessel currently under restoration; 7,000 square feet of exhibition space; and a 900-square foot library, research and meeting room. The Museum provides a

variety of public education programs. Our core educational program is the Pioneer School Experience (PSE), which serves over 1,400 students every year. Led by a trained “School Marm,” the children experience a pioneer school classroom complete with lessons, recitations, music, recess, and lunch. Our permanent exhibit features professionally designed exhibitions, larger-than-life experiences, and opportunities for hands-on exploration of our region’s rich history and unique heritage. Artifacts, video kiosks, hands-on exhibits, computer interactives, and a small theater bring Peninsula history to life in our permanent galleries. In addition, the Museum provides 3-5 special exhibits throughout the year so there is always something new to see and experience for our members and visitors.

WINTER HOURS (*Jan. – April*) — Wednesdays–Fridays 10 am–5 pm, Saturdays 10 pm–4 pm.

SUMMER HOURS (*May – Dec.*) — Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 am–5 pm, Sundays 12 pm–4 pm.

ADMISSION – Complimentary Admission for all visitors courtesy of the City of Gig Harbor.

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