



Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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www.exeter.edu/lamontgallery

WORLD of WONDERS

Photographs by
Jimmy and Dena Katz



John Johnson breathing fire, Florida, 2007



Natalie and Elephant, New Jersey, 2008

Tuesday, July 5 - Friday, July 29, 2011
Reception: Thursday, July 7th 5pm-6:30pm

Exhibition is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions

All photographs copyright Jimmy and Dena Katz



Lamont Gallery

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Summer Hours: July - Tuesday - Friday 9am-4pm

World of Wonders: Photographs by Jimmy and Dena Katz

July 5 - July 29, 2011

The Lamont Gallery presents *World of Wonders: Photographs by Jimmy and Dena Katz*, an exhibition of the only remaining authentic traveling sideshow in America. For three seasons, the duo photographers traveled with the *World Of Wonders* show, performed by a group of old-time entertainers who practice skills and feats from decades gone by.

Using a large-format camera in brilliant colors, the Katzes' photographic portrayal of this rarely seen and unique group of sword swallows, fire eaters, freaks and illusionists capture the beauty,

originality, harshness and creativity of the individuals and their daily lives in the sideshow, in more than 40 photographs.

Jennifer Balderama of *The New York Times* said of the exhibit, "[These] ... performers of aberrational entertainment who make up the World of Wonders, [capture] the glitter and kitsch, the liberty and hardship of the open road. The results are startling: dazzling portraits in lurid color, with an unflinching, high-definition intimacy."



John Johnson Breathing Fire, Florida, 2007

All photographs copyright Jimmy and Dena Katz

This visual exhibit presents hard-luck stories and hard-lived lives from carnival members, who in spite of changing times and tastes, persevere in search of a captive audience. The members include the troupe's leaders, the legendary Ward Hall and his partner Chris Christ, who mounted multiple extravaganzas for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey more than 50 years ago. The exhibit will include audio clips available via a visitor's cell phone. Each call offers a personal story from the people in the photographs.

World of Wonders: Photographs by Jimmy and Dena Katz puts a face on the folks who throw knives, work with elephants and showcase "The World's Smallest Horse." Where else would you find "Elton with Razor Blades," "John Johnson Breathing Fire," and "April with Snake"? Performers come from Nebraska, New York, New Jersey and beyond, and they all have the same interest . . . to be part of the sideshow. "Friendships develop, stories are shared, and the show goes on," says Karen Burgess Smith, director of the Lamont Gallery.

"Bring your kids, bring your grandparents, bring your in-laws, bring your outlaws, bring your parole officer, bring everybody inside. If you're in line, then you're in time!" says sword swallower, Tommy Breen.

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Natalie and Elephant, New Jersey, 2008

All photographs copyright Jimmy and Dena Katz



Ward Hall with Banners, Florida, 2007

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