

BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM

# CREATING CAMELOT

Estate of Jacques Lowe

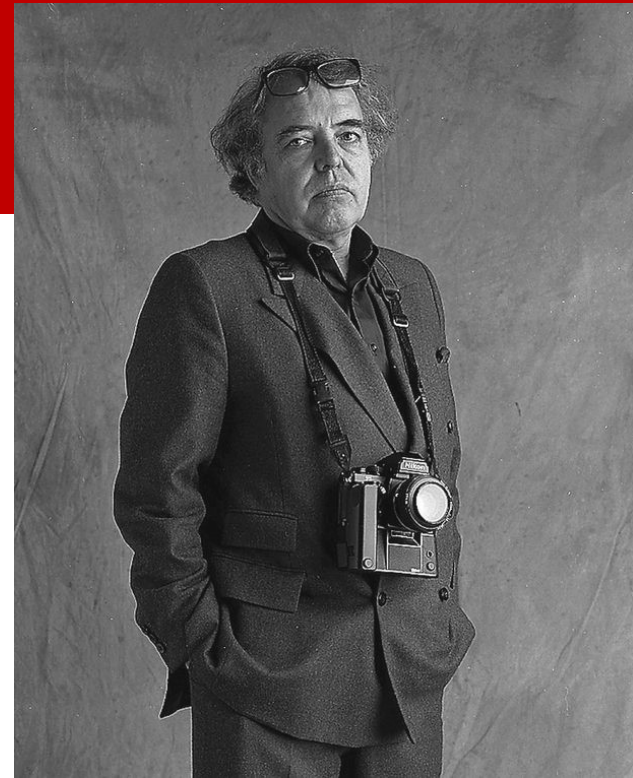


## FAMILY GUIDE

A Gallery Guide for Families and Kids

# The Photography of Jacques Lowe

Jacques Lowe was a **photographer** born in Germany in 1930. He started his career in 1951 when he won **LIFE** magazine's Young Photographer contest. Jacques became good friends with the Kennedy family, who asked him to take photos of their son, an up-and-coming senator named John F. Kennedy (JFK). The family trusted Jacques to follow him and take pictures of his daily life, even allowing him on the **campaign trail**. When **JFK** won the presidential election Jacques Lowe was offered a job as the **Chief White House Photographer**. Jacques decided not to take the job, even though it is an important position. He was worried that as an **official** photographer he would not be allowed the same free access to the President he enjoyed as a private citizen.



*How is being a President different from being a normal citizen?*

*What kind of pictures would Jacques not have been allowed to take?*



Jacques was happy to be a **private** photographer following John F. Kennedy through his new life as a president. JFK was young and handsome; his wife, Jacqueline, was **fashionable** and elegant. Jacques Lowe's photographs were in high demand as the **public** wanted to see more of the beautiful first family. Mr. Lowe loved taking pictures of the Kennedys, and although Jackie sometimes worried about photographs of her children being published in the papers, she let him photograph them nonetheless. Jackie understood the power of the press, as she had been a **journalist** before her marriage.



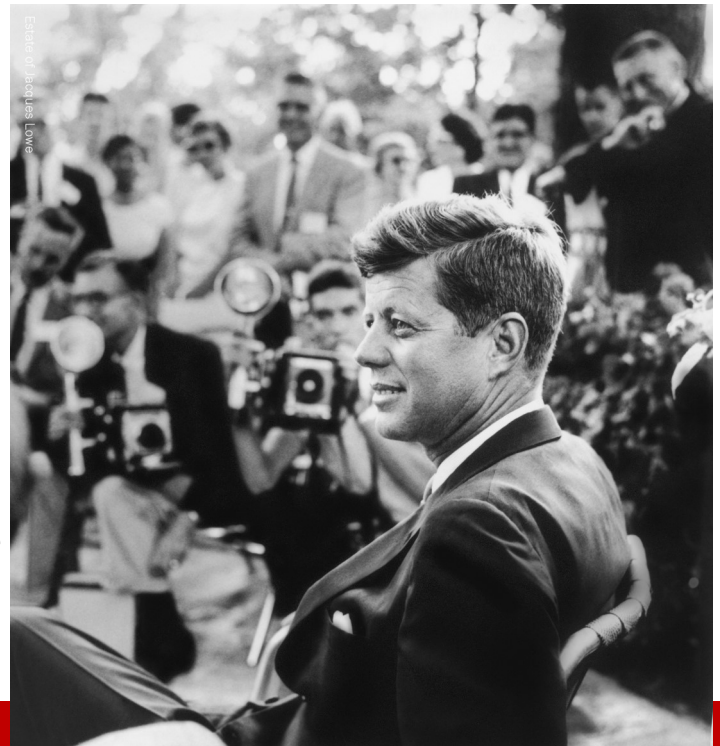
President John F. Kennedy also once worked as a journalist. He loved to read the newspaper and had great respect for the **press**. By allowing the media access to the White House, JFK hoped the public would support his **administration**.

While in office the President often faces great challenges that shape the future of our country and makes decisions that are not always popular. The news plays an important part in how people see the President and these decisions. Is he trustworthy? Is he a nice guy? Is he a good leader? Most people trust what they can see, and Lowe's photographs helped the public see how their President acted in his everyday life.

***How would you feel about a photographer following you around?***

***Would it be exciting or embarrassing? Why?***

These pictures show a unique period of time immediately before and during John F. Kennedy's time as President of the United States. Later on Jacqueline Kennedy would refer to these times as "**Camelot**", after the popular Broadway **musical** that she and her husband enjoyed together. When President Kennedy died in 1963 the 40,000 **negatives** of Jacques's now famous pictures became even more valuable. For safekeeping, Lowe stored them in a bank vault at the **World Trade Center**. After the Trade Center attacks in 2001, almost all of the original negatives were destroyed. **The Newseum in Washington, DC** carefully worked with over 1,600 of Lowe's original **contact sheets** to restore these photographs to the condition you see today. Without their hard work these images would have been lost to us, much like the city of Camelot, disappearing forever into **legend**.



**See the back for more!**



A big part of any photographers job is to choose which pictures are good enough to print.

If you were Jacques Lowe, which of these photographs from this contact sheet would you print? Are any of these pictures in this exhibit?

Which picture is your favorite? Which one do you like least? Why?

How do these pictures make you feel? Do you think Jacques Lowe enjoyed his job?

“Creating Camelot: The Kennedy Photography of Jacques Lowe” was developed by the Newseum in collaboration with the Jacques Lowe estate.

The Newseum, an interactive museum of news, is located in Washington, D.C.

[newseum.org](http://newseum.org)

Photo Credits in Order of Appearance

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