

Media Release

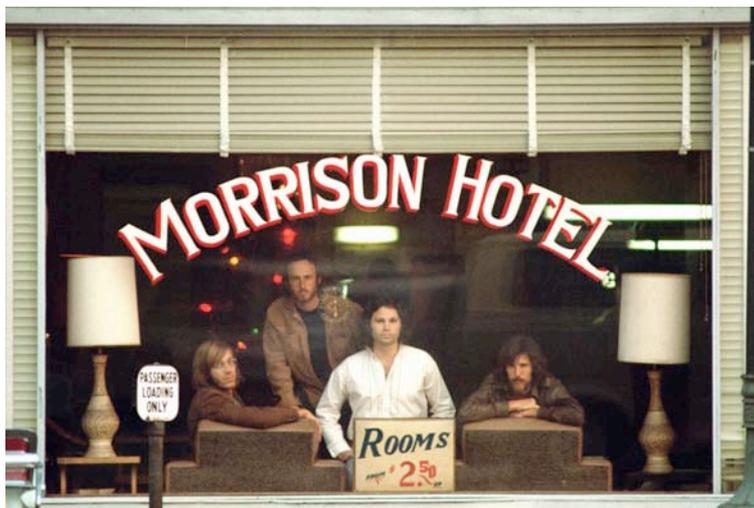
Tuesday 7 October 2008

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CALIFORNIA DREAMING

An exhibition of photographs by Henry Diltz

Exhibition Opening: 20 November 2008 6pm–8pm
Exhibition runs until Tuesday 23 December 2008
Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington



Doors

For the first time in Australia a collection of iconic images from Henry Diltz's legendary archive will be on show next month in Sydney.

The Blender Gallery in Paddington, in association with Morrison Hotel Gallery in the US, presents CALIFORNIA DREAMING, featuring more than 50 of Los Angeles-based Diltz's most evocative images from the American west coast music scene, spanning from the 1960s to the 1990s. One of the world's most famous rock photographers, Henry Diltz is the man who all but defined the genre.

Diltz will be in Sydney for the exhibition's opening, his first trip back to Australia since 1974, when he was touring the world as David Cassidy's personal photographer. From David Cassidy to Paul McCartney, Jim Hendrix to James Taylor, Crosby Stills Nash & Young to the Rolling Stones, the Monkees to the Eagles, the Doors to America, Janis Joplin to Linda Ronstadt, Mama Cass Elliot to Joni Mitchell, and hundreds more, Diltz has captured the essence of many of music's greatest figures in his timeless images. The signed photographs on display at Blender Gallery will all be available for purchase.



Neil Young

Artists such as Neil Young and Jackson Browne, who are both touring Australia early next year, have been favourite subjects of Henry's for more than 40 years. That these artists are still playing around the world is a testament to the fact that their music is infinitely enduring and the mythology surrounding their music is limitlessly fascinating. Diltz's images tell their stories most powerfully.

In the world of rock n' roll photographers, there are none as extraordinary as Henry Diltz. A founding member of the Modern Folk Quartet, Diltz is as much at home as a musician on tour as he is a visual historian of the last four decades of popular music. The rapport he's developed with his musician friends, along with his down-to-earth-grin and frequent laugh, enables him to capture the candid shots that convey a rare feeling of trust and intimacy with his subjects.



Joni Mitchell & Graham Nash



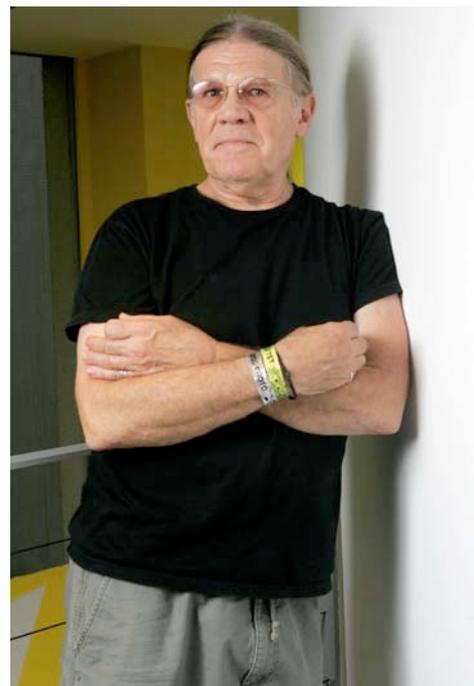
Keith Richards & Ron Wood

For Diltz, the pictures began with a \$20 second-hand Japanese camera purchased on tour with the Modern Folk Quartet. When MFQ disbanded, he embarked on his photographic career with an album cover for The Lovin' Spoonful. Despite his lack of formal training, Diltz easily submerged himself in the world of music: the road, the gigs, the humour, the social consciousness, the psychedelia, the ups and downs.

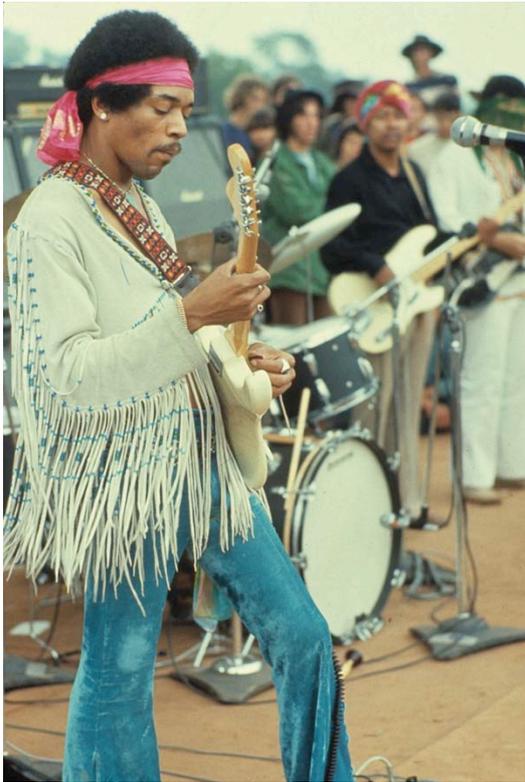
Henry Diltz's photos are distinguished by a lyrical sense of composition, which the actor Harrison Ford once referred to as "Henry's framing Jones." There's an intuitive, naturalistic luminosity which only available light – which he prefers – can deliver. Whether working in conventional film or digital images, he always finds the perfect balance of illumination, colour, and reportage.

For four decades Diltz's work has graced hundreds of album covers and has been featured in magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times*, *The LA Times*, *Life*, *People*, *Rolling Stone*, *High Times* and *Billboard*. His unique artistic style has produced powerful photographic essays of the Woodstock and Monterey Pop festivals, and his work has appeared in countless authoritative books on the California music scene.

As the Eagles' Glenn Frey has said: "This is not history, this is evidence!"



Henry Diltz



Jimi Hendrix

"I am amazed at the accumulation of images that has resulted, simply by doing what I love to do, day after day after day," Diltz says. "It's a result of being with countless people over the years, waiting at the sidelines for the moment to happen. Photography has been my passport, and I have arrived in the present, where I have always been, camera in hand."

Next year will be 40 years since the original Woodstock festival, and Diltz has already been interviewed by numerous documentary makers from around the world, who draw on his vivid recollections of that life-changing cultural era. Similarly, Diltz is frequently sought after to talk about the Laurel Canyon music scene of the '60s and '70s, when everyone from Frank Zappa to Joni Mitchell were writing and playing music that would become classic.

Yet for all his links to times long passed, Diltz is thrilled that some of his most popular images are of more recent musical heroes, such as the late Kurt Cobain.



Kurt Cobain



Madonna



Crosby Stills & Nash

Henry Diltz is a partner in, and is exclusively published and represented by, the Morrison Hotel Gallery. The major brand in fine art music photography in America, Morrison Hotel Gallery features the photography of Henry Diltz and more than 50 other rock photographers, in five galleries in California and New York, with new locations planned across the US and internationally. See www.morrisonhotelgallery.com for more information.



Eagles

Listings Information

California Dreaming: The Photography of Henry Diltz

20 November – 23 December 2008

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm

Admission Free

Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington NSW 2021

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