



Charles Phoenix is fixed on the past, but not his own. He hasn't taken a picture in years, but over the last decade, he has collected more than a million slides from estate sales and flea markets, many of them showing holiday festivities. He includes the select few that he deems "extraordinary ordinary" in his touring slide shows, the latest of which is at the American Cinematheque in Los Angeles. The parade of families is anonymous, in many cases. But the slides shown here from the 50's and 60's capture eccentricities of each celebration, from the cloudy, rose-colored concoction that capped off one feast (middle left) to the toy kitchen set for an ecstatic housewife in training (top right). — Catherine Saint Louis

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