

This exhibition also includes revealing photographs by Orin Langelle documenting the installation and reception of Beard's groundbreaking 1977 exhibition *The End of the Game* at New York's International Center of Photography, which accompanied the first re-issue of his classic book. Just two years earlier, Parks' show *Moments Without Proper Names* helped inaugurate ICP's first year of operation as a museum of photography. Together, Beard and Parks were among the first photographers to mount solo exhibitions at this important Manhattan institution, at a crucial point in the development of a widespread audience and mainstream acceptance of photography as an art form... (One of Beard's elephant herds was wrapped around the 70-foot facade of the I.C.P.)

Gordon Parks: Collages by Peter Beard also celebrates Taschen's 50th Anniversary Edition of Beard's photo-book, *The End of the Game*. This handsome volume, available for sale at the exhibition, is published in a limited edition of 5000 copies and includes an updated foreword by internationally-renowned travel and fiction writer Paul Theroux. Heralding Beard's 1965 Viking Press edition in *The Book of 101 Books*, critic David Levi Strauss wrote: "Long taken as a seminal book on wildlife conservation, [*The End of the Game*] is actually an epic visual poem on the subject of loss, especially the ultimate loss of life."

Gordon Parks: Collages by Peter Beard will be on view through April 23, 2016 in the exhibition space of The Gordon Parks Foundation, located at 48 Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville.

Hours & Admission

Free and Open to the Public

Weekdays: 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm

General Information

The Gordon Parks Foundation

48 Wheeler Avenue, Floor 1

Pleasantville, NY 10570

Tel: (914) 238-2619

Website: www.gordonparksfoundation.org

Facebook: The Gordon Parks Foundation

Twitter: @GparksFound

Instagram: [gordonparksfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/gordonparksfoundation)



Peter Beard working on Gordon Parks collages in New York City studio, 2013

Biographies:

Born in New York City in 1938, **Peter Beard** began taking photographs and keeping diaries from early childhood. By the time he graduated from Yale University with a degree in art, Beard had already developed a keen interest in Africa. Throughout the 1960s and '70s he worked in Tsavo Park, the Aberdares, and Lake Rudolf in Kenya's northern frontier. His enduring relationship with East Africa—its landscape, wildlife, and peoples—has become the predominant artistic and intellectual wellspring for his unique imagery. A constant creator, Beard collages his own photographs with historic scenes, ephemera, handwritten and printed text, found objects, diary pages, blood, ink, and watercolor. He uses photography as a medium and his photographs as a canvas. He has collaborated with many of the greatest artists of our time, including Francis Bacon, Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, Josef Albers, and Richard Lindner. He lives in New York City, Long Island, and Kenya with his wife Nejma, and daughter Zara.

Gordon Parks was born into poverty and segregation in Fort Scott, Kansas in 1912. An itinerant laborer, he worked as a brothel pianist and railcar porter, among other jobs, before buying a camera at a pawnshop, training himself, and becoming a photographer. In addition to his legendary tenure photographing for the Farm Security Administration in the 1940s and LIFE magazine from 1948-72, Parks evolved into a modern day Renaissance man, finding success as an author, film director, and composer. The first African-American to helm a major motion picture, Parks directed Shaft in 1971. He wrote numerous memoirs, novels, and books of poetry; won countless awards, including the National Medal of Arts; and received more than fifty honorary degrees during a life of restless creativity and wide-ranging accomplishment. Parks died in 2006.

The **Gordon Parks Foundation's** mission is to permanently preserve the work of Gordon Parks, make it available to the public through exhibitions, books, and electronic media, and support artistic and educational activities that advance what Parks described as "the common search for a better life and a better world." The primary purpose of The Gordon Parks Foundation's exhibition space is to present focused exhibits of Parks' photography, as part of the Foundation's commitment to educating the public and preserving his work.