

## GORDON PARKS

Moments Without Proper Names

27 January – 11 March 2006

### Artist Reception

Thursday, January 26, 2005



**New York** - Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce a retrospective exhibition of one of America's most distinguished artists, Gordon Parks. Photographer, filmmaker, poet, writer and composer, Gordon Parks represents one of the most inspiring and accomplished figures of our time. Now in his 93rd year, Mr. Parks continues to produce, create and share moments from his lifetime and this exhibition will set out to celebrate many of his career's most moving and powerful photographic works.

As one of the most prolific and diverse artists in contemporary America, this exhibition will present images from throughout Mr. Parks' photographic career. After winning a fellowship for his documentary photography in 1941, Parks joined Roy Stryker at the Farm Security Administration in 1942 in Washington DC where he recorded the social and cultural conditions during the Depression. There he made one of his most iconic images "American Gothic" – a portrait of Ella Watson, a black woman with mop and broom in hand standing before the American flag. After the FSA dissolved he moved with Stryker to the Office of War Information and was assigned as a war correspondent to the 32nd Fighter Group, the first African American air corps. In 1944 Edward Steichen recognized his great talent and sent him to see Alexander

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Liberman the director of *Vogue*. By the end of that same year his work was appearing in the pages of *Vogue* and *Glamour* magazines. Then in 1948 Parks joined the staff of *Life* Magazine and for the next 30 years, through a broad range of images, stirring chronicles of poverty, racism and the civil rights movement, Parks focused on his photojournalistic work in the United States and abroad. With selections from his countless photo essays, this exhibition will feature Parks' document of Red Jackson and gang warfare in Harlem, his series on an asthmatic boy, Flavio da Silva, living in poverty in Brazil, his work on segregation in the American South, crime in Chicago as well as photo essays on Duke Ellington and Muhammad Ali. In each work we see Parks' ability to expose the beauty and pain his subjects.

In addition to Parks' distinguished career as a photographer he has received great acclaim for his work as a writer and filmmaker. His numerous films include "The Learning Tree" (1969) based on his 1963 autobiographical novel by the same name and "Shaft" (1971).

Parks' work was celebrated in a retrospective touring exhibition "Gordon Parks: Half Past Autumn" from 1998-2001. His work is included in many notable public collections including The International Center of Photography, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. Throughout the years Gordon Parks has received numerous awards for his work including induction into the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum and the Jackie Robinson Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002, National Medal of Arts in 1988, NAACP Hall of Fame Award in 1984, Spingarn Medal in 1972, an Emmy Award in 1968 for the documentary "Diary of a Harlem Family" and "Photographer of the Year" from the American Society of Magazine Photographers, New York in 1960.

Along with his stunning photographs, the Howard Greenberg Gallery will be viewing "Moments without Proper Names" his autobiographical film that incorporates Park's own photographs and poetry.

For further information, or to request visuals for press,  
contact Karen Marks at 212 334 0010 or [karen@howardgreenberg.com](mailto:karen@howardgreenberg.com)  
Starting Thursday, January 26, the exhibition can be viewed at [www.howardgreenberg.com](http://www.howardgreenberg.com)