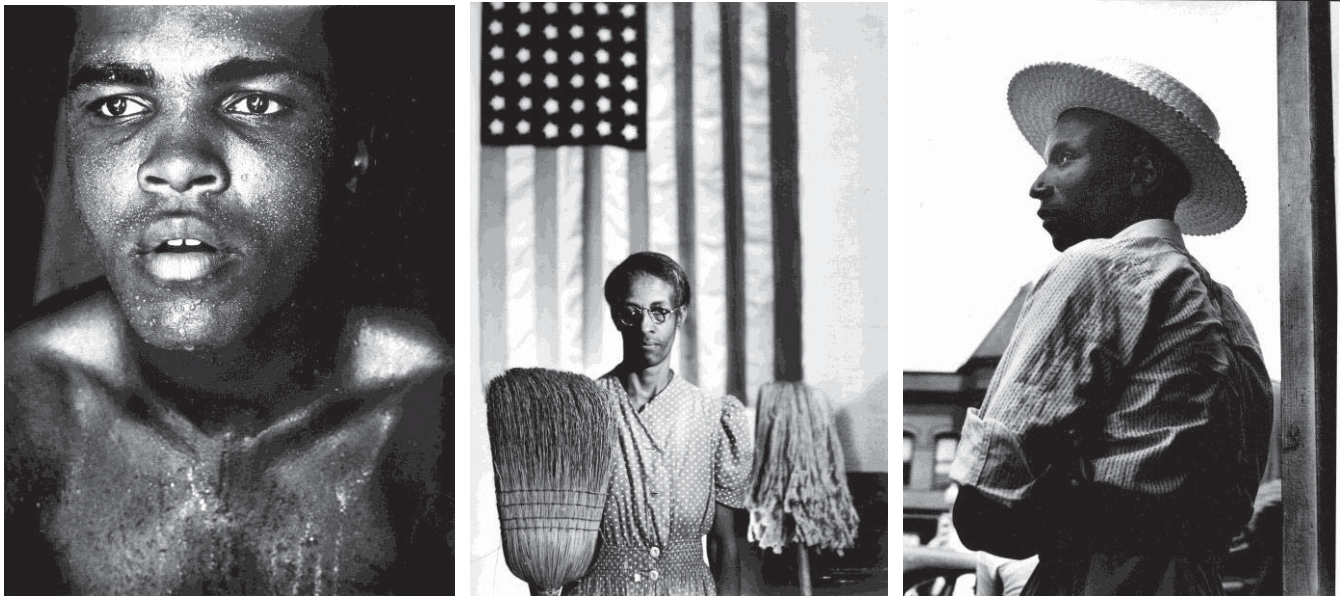


Gordon Parks: Crossroads

July 7-October 16, 2009



Prairie View A&M University is proud to present *Gordon Parks: Crossroads*, a survey of 45-photographic images celebrating the prolific work of one of America's most accomplished 20th century artists. Gordon Parks (1912-2006) was a photographer, poet, novelist, composer, musician and filmmaker. On July 7th we are excited to share such significant work with the campus and neighboring communities.

In 1949 Parks became the first black staff photographer at *Life* magazine, where he would remain on the masthead for a quarter century. With his first two photo-essays for *Life* – on the gang wars of Harlem, and on the latest Paris collections – he announced his remarkable range. His intimate photo-essays on the Black Panthers, the nascent Black Muslim movement, and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death remain classics – “my sentiments lay in the heart of black fury sweeping the country,” he later wrote – but equally classic were his extended photo-portraits of cultural icons as varied as Barbara Streisand, Langston Hughes, Alexander Calder, Ingrid Bergman, Duke Ellington and Muhammad Ali. “Success among whites never made Parks lose touch with black reality,” Malcolm X wrote in his autobiography.

Throughout every aspect of his diverse career Parks' work consistently shattered barriers in pursuit of beauty, social justice and freedom of expression. *Gordon Parks: Crossroads* has traveled the country, and will be on view in the PVAMU John B. Coleman Library's, 4th Floor Art Gallery, through October 16th. For additional information about the gallery and programs occurring in conjunction with this exhibition, please call Ms. Kelley at 936-261-1523 or email at Ldkelley@pvamu.edu. This exhibition is free and open to the general public.

For the educational and outreach efforts of the John B. Coleman Library and TIPHC, this exhibition was made possible by generous support from The Brown Foundation, Inc. All photographs courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation and the Howard Greenberg Gallery. Working in partner with the Fourth Floor Art Gallery, this show is also organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.