



Defuskie Island: Photographs by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe

February 5-March 6, 2009

Jeanne Moutoussamy Ashe's is a photographer whose work and career has spanned over two decades with exhibitions in such venues as, The Whitney Museum of American Art, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, the Museum of Modern Art and the Smithsonian.

This spring semester the 4th Floor Exhibit Space, John B. Coleman Library, and Prairie View A & M University are very excited to host the images that comprise Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe's first published photographic essay, 'Daufuskie Island: A Photographic Essay'. This work is a candid exploration of the lives of the remaining Gullah-speaking black inhabitants of South Carolina's off-shore islands and coastal regions. Moutoussamy Ashe has recently released this book's 25th anniversary edition which won the 2008 *Essence* Literary Award for Photography. *Essence* contributor Judith Wilson called the book "a haunting ... tribute to the last bastion of Gullah tradition." Moutoussamy-Ashe followed this work with a 1986 collection, *Viewfinders: Black Women Photographers*, a history of African American women's contributions to the photographic record.

In addition to be celebrated for her photographic work, Moutoussamy Ashe is also the wife of the late pro tennis champion Arthur Ashe. The late Mr. Ashe was the center of a *Life* magazine essay and subsequent work entitled 'Daddy and Me' celebrating her husband's life and love for their daughter Camera during the last days of his life.

The exhibit *Defuskie Island: Photographs by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe* will be on exhibit in the 4th Floor Exhibit Space from February 3-March 6, 2008. Ms. Ashe will visit the campus to speak about her ideas and current projects in the John B. Coleman Library on Wednesday, March 4th at 1 pm in room 108. Please contact Lauren Kelley at 936-261-1523 or email at Ldkelley@pvamu.edu for addition details about this exhibition and programs.

Image above: Jake and his boat © Jeanne Moutoussamy Ashe. This exhibition is touring by art2art Circulating Exhibitions. Photographs featured in this exhibition are from the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Collection.