**ART & STUFF**

**Gordon Parks Foundation exhibition exemplifies excellence in Black art**

By Audrey J. Bernard


The traveling exhibition provides a detailed look at Parks’ early evolution through some 150 photographs, as well as rare magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and books. It also demonstrates how Parks’ early work was influenced and inspired by a network of creative and intellectual figures— including Charles White, Roy Stryker, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison. A fully illustrated catalog, published and produced by the Gordon Parks Foundation and Steidl in association with the Gallery, provides a detailed new search and many previously unpublished images. The exhibition is working simultaneously with artists—who both draw inspiration from Parks—explore the complexity of the American experience through familiar subjects with their own distinctive artistic approaches. Opening in the West Building in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, from November 4, 2018, through February 18, 2019, the exhibition features new work by many of the most prominent photographers of our time. The exhibition’s commitment to educating the public and providing an “extended family” and an “inclination for love” is at the heart of the exhibition’s exploration of the body in diaspora. The exhibition is accompanied by a network of creative and intellectual figures— including W. Kuhn, an actor, and a celebrated composer, author, and filmmaker who is currently engaged in a series of projects that explore the complexity of American culture.

In celebration of the exhibition, the Foundation hosted an artists’ reception at 9:00 AM, October 19, 2018, at 8:00 AM in the Peristyle Room. The exhibition is on view in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, from November 4, 2018, through February 18, 2019.

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About Deana Lawson

Photographer Deana Lawson is currently a celebrated composer, author, and filmmaker who is currently engaged in a series of projects that explore the complexity of American culture.

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About Derrick Adams

Derrick Adams is a New York–based, multidisciplinary artist. His practice is rooted in deconstructivist philosophies such as the fragmentation and manipulation of structure and surface, and the marriage of complex and improbable forms. His work examines the force of popular culture and the media on the perception and construction of self-image. Adams received his MFA from Columbia University, BFA from Pratt Institute, and is an alumnus of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program, as well as the recipient of the Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, S. Weiler Award, and Agnes Martin Fellowship. He’s exhibited and performed at MoMA PS1, Brooklyn Museum of Art, PERFORMA, Studio Museum in Harlem, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The California African American Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Arts and Design, among other notable galleries and institutions. Adams’ work is in the permanent collections of Studio Museum in Harlem, Vir- ginia Museum of Fine Arts, Birmingham Muse- num, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art.

About The Gordon Parks Foundation

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.” The foundation’s primary purpose is to present focused exhibitions of Parks’ photography, as part of the Foundation’s commitment to educating the public and preserving his work.

About Gordon Parks

Gordon Parks was a seminal figure of twentieth-century American culture. A humanitarian with a deep commitment to social justice, he left behind a body of work that documents many of the most important aspects of American culture from the early 1940s up until his death in 2006, with a focus on race relations, poverty, civil rights, and urban life. In addition, Parks was also an accomplished composer, writer, and filmmaker who interacted with many of the most prominent figures of his era—from politicians and artists to celebrities, and athletes. Best, Tonya