

JACKSON FINE ART

ATLANTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2026

Gordon Parks
The South in Color

Exhibition Dates: April 2 – July 11, 2026
Opening Reception: Thursday, April 2 | 6 – 8PM



Jackson Fine Art is delighted to announce our spring exhibition *Gordon Parks: The South in Color* organized in partnership with The Gordon Parks Foundation. The exhibition is timed to commemorate two important milestones - the 70th anniversary of the landmark publication of Parks' images of the segregated South in *Life* magazine and the 20th anniversary of the founding of The Gordon Parks Foundation. *The South in Color* will present more than thirty photographs from the artist's *Segregation Story* series and debut a brand-new portfolio published by the Foundation. The exhibition brings together many of Parks' images not

previously shown in the gallery, alongside some of his most recognized such as *At Segregated Drinking Fountain, Mobile, Alabama*, to offer a fresh look at the series, and deepen its emotional and historical resonance.

The South in Color is curated by acclaimed American photographer Dawoud Bey, and presented in alliance with the Foundation's yearlong celebration of Parks and his impact on the current generation of Black artists and writers. Our exhibition brings to life Bey's 2022 essay, *The South in Color* from the expanded edition of *Gordon Parks: Segregation Story* (2022), in which he writes about the visual poetry of Parks' photographs taken in and around Mobile, Alabama in Summer 1956 for *Life* magazine. Bey writes about Parks' artistic vision for this series and how, "these photographs deserve as much consideration for the quality of their making as the mission that brought them into being."



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Parks employed a handheld, twin lens Rolleiflex camera to photograph the daily lives of the Thornton family and their extended relatives, among them the Causey and Tanner families. His camera selection and decision to shoot in color resulted in the carefully composed, lush, square format images in the exhibition. Bey writes how Parks' "deliberate choices of tool, material, and sensibility lend the Black Southern presence, often under siege, a sense of lives fully and expressively lived." Bey's curation provides a new perspective into the creative genius of Gordon Parks.

Additionally, the exhibition will premiere a limited-edition portfolio entitled *The South in Color*, published by The Gordon Parks Foundation in celebration of their 20th anniversary. The ten photographs in this new portfolio highlight Parks' attention to children, whose presence anchors many of the series' most powerful images. A printing of Dawoud Bey's essay *The South in Color* is included in the portfolio. *The South in Color* portfolio is printed in an edition of 25 with 5 Artist's Proofs.



Gallery inquiries may be directed to:
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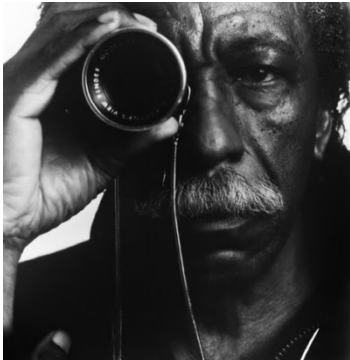
1. *Untitled*, 1956
2. *At Segregated Drinking Fountain, Mobile, Alabama*, 1956
3. *Untitled, Alabama*, 1956
4. *Untitled, Shady Grove, Alabama*, 1956

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About the Artist



In a career that spanned more than fifty years, photographer, filmmaker, musician, and author Gordon Parks (American, 1912–2006) created a groundbreaking body of work that made him one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. Beginning in the 1940s, he documented American life and culture with a focus on social justice, race relations, the civil rights movement, and the African American experience. Born into poverty and segregation in Fort Scott, Kansas, Parks was drawn to photography as a young man. Despite his lack of professional training, he won a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in 1942; this led to a position with the photography section of the Farm Security Administration (FSA) in Washington, D.C., and, later, the Office of War Information (OWI). By the mid-1940s, he was working as a freelance photographer for publications such as *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *Ebony*. Parks was hired in 1948 as a staff photographer for *Life* magazine, where more than two decades he created some of his most notable work. In 1969 he became the first African American to write and direct a major feature film, *The Learning Tree*, based on his semiautobiographical novel. His next directorial endeavor, *Shaft* (1971) helped define a genre then referred to as Blaxploitation films. Parks continued photographing, publishing, and composing until his death in 2006.

(Image credit: Toni Parks)

About the Curator



Groundbreaking artist and MacArthur Fellow Dawoud Bey (b.1953, New York) examines the Black past and present. His photographs and film installations have been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States and Europe. Bey's work has been the subject of numerous solo museum exhibitions, including *Dawoud Bey: An American Project* organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art (2020-2022), and *Elegy* at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (2023-2024) and New Orleans Museum of Art (2025-2026); and *Dawoud Bey: Street Portraits* at the Denver Art Museum (2024-2025).

He has been the subject of several monographs, including *Elegy* (Aperture/VMFA, 2023), which chronicles Bey's history projects and landscape-based work. Bey is the recipient of numerous awards including five honorary doctorates, and in 2024, the artist was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is currently a Critic at Yale University, where he received his Master's in Fine Arts, and is Professor Emeritus at Columbia College, Chicago. Bey lives and works in Chicago and New York.

(Image credit: Frank Ishman)

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About Jackson Fine Art



Jackson Fine Art is a world-renowned gallery with a 35-year history of supporting artists and collectors. The gallery cultivates and guides both emerging and established collectors to the best fine art photography of the 20th and 21st century, across both traditional and innovative photo-based mediums. Working closely with collectors, curators, consultants, and designers, JFA provides expertise in a warm, welcoming space in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, GA. The gallery is led by Co-Owner & Creative Director, Anna Walker Skillman, and Co-Owner Andy Heyman, Founder, ASH IP& ASH Atlanta. In the spring of 2023, Jackson Fine Art relocated into a custom-built, 4000

square-foot gallery with expanded exhibition, office, inventory, library and meeting spaces to keep pace with the growing clientele and opportunity to exhibit large-scale works. In addition to 9-12 exhibitions annually, Jackson Fine Art participates in international art fairs including Paris Photo; The Photography Show (AIPAD) in New York; Art Miami; and Intersect Aspen. The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD) and Ms. Skillman is a former member of the board of directors. Jackson Fine Art has placed work in numerous important private and public collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art; High Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Milwaukee Art Museum and Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris to name a few.

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3122 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.
Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM – 5PM.

More information:

www.jacksonfineart.com

IG: [@jacksonfineart](https://www.instagram.com/jacksonfineart)

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