



MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

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Minnesota Museum of American Art Presents A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity: The Visions of Gordon Parks and Jamel Shabazz



St. Paul, MN—January 3, 2019—Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) is pleased to present *A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity: The Visions of Gordon Parks and Jamel Shabazz* on view from January 23–April 19, 2020.

Exhibition: January 23—April 19, 2020

Press Preview: Friday, January 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Curator Robin Hickman-Winfield will be available for interviews.
Refreshments will be served.

Opening Party: Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:00-8:00 p.m.

This exhibition includes photographs that document expressions of dignity, honor, hope, and love in the African-American community by two towering photographers. Featured works include Gordon Parks's astonishing images from the Jim Crow-era through the civil rights movement, and photographs by Brooklyn-based artist Jamel Shabazz, who has followed in Parks's footsteps from the 1980s to the present day. The exhibition's title comes from Parks's autobiography (published in 1966), which chronicles his use of the camera to effect social change—an approach to photography that inspired Shabazz to begin taking pictures and one that continues to guide his prolific career.

A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity explores how Parks and Shabazz have both used photography to empower communities and lift up Black voices.

The exhibition is curated by **Robin Hickman-Winfield**, CEO and Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions and a great-niece of Gordon Parks, with the help of four Gordon Parks High School Scholars and curatorial advisors, Travell Williams, Andrew Shorty, Amelia Pharmer, and Tyrell Horton, Choice of Weapons Fellow and Gordon Parks Legacy Movement Program Assistant. Key components of the communications and marketing strategies were designed by the BrandLab interns Elijah Buchanan, Waylon Rembert Jr., and Charvaye Williams.

Hickman-Winfield (with the help of M Trustee Nathan Johnson) will also be assembling a Vision Council of distinguished black men in the Twin Cities. This transgenerational group will meet at the M to discuss how this exhibition can serve as a platform for healing and for lifting up Black voices.

Image credits (above): Gordon Parks, *Black Muslim Schoolchildren*, 1963, gelatin silver print. Collection Minnesota Museum of American Art.
© The Gordon Parks Foundation. Jamel Shabazz, *Father and Sons*, Harlem, c. 1990. Archival pigment print. Courtesy of the artist.

RELATED PROGRAMS

A GATHERING TO REMEMBER GORDON PARKS'S LEGACY IN THE TWIN CITIES

Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m –2 p.m.

Hallie Q. Brown Community Center | 270 Kent Street, St. Paul, MN

Free and open to the public

Share your stories, mementos, and photos from the time Gordon Parks spent in the Twin Cities, and help shape an exhibition at the M honoring his legacy in our communities.

Have a story, photograph, or memento to share about the time Gordon Parks spent in the Twin Cities? Join Robin Hickman-Winfield, great niece of Gordon Parks, and her student scholars at Gordon Parks High School to help shape the M's exhibition celebrating the photographer's important legacy in the Twin Cities. *Gordon Parks: A Homecoming* will open at the M on March 7, 2020, the anniversary of Parks's death.

OPENING PARTY: A CHOICE OF WEAPONS, HONOR AND DIGNITY: THE VISIONS OF GORDON PARKS AND JAMEL SHABAZZ

Thursday, January 23, 6 –8 p.m. | Remarks at 7 p.m.

Free * [RSVP requested](#)

Music and cash bar

Members of the M receive a free drink ticket

Join us for a party to celebrate the opening of a remarkable exhibition!

You're invited to help celebrate the opening of the M's winter exhibition. Enjoy music and a cash bar. Mingle with artist Jamel Shabazz and curator Robin Hickman-Winfield, and take your first look at the photography on view in this remarkable exhibition.

IN CONVERSATION: ARTIST JAMEL SHABAZZ AND CURATOR ROBIN HICKMAN-WINFIELD

Saturday, January 25, 1 p.m.

Free * [RSVP requested](#)

Minnesota Museum of American Art | 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul

Join Robin Hickman-Winfield, cultural visionary and curator of *A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity*, in conversation with Brooklyn-based artist Jamel Shabazz, who has been hailed as the Gordon Parks of his generation. Hickman-Winfield and Shabazz will discuss the deep bond they developed over their shared commitment to social justice, the empowerment of Black youth, and the healing power of art.

CURATOR TOUR

Sunday, January 26, 1 p.m. (ASL)

Free * [RSVP requested](#)

Minnesota Museum of American Art | 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul

Led by Robin Hickman-Winfield and Gordon Parks High School Scholars Amelia Pharmer, Andrew Shorty, Travell Williams, and Tyrell Horton

Take a tour led by curator Robin Hickman-Winfield and the Gordon Parks High School (GPHS) Scholars who helped her curate the exhibition, *A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity*. Hear from GPHS Scholars about the impact of these photographs, and their own contributions to the show.

JUST FOR M MEMBERS: VISIONS OF LOVE WITH CURATOR ROBIN HICKMAN-WINFIELD

Thursday, February 13, 6 p.m.

Free for M members * [RSVP requested](#)

Minnesota Museum of American Art | 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul

Mingle over small bites and get an inside look at the M's winter exhibition from the show's curator.

M Members are invited to spend an evening with Robin Hickman-Winfield, CEO and Executive Director of SoulTouch Productions and curator of *A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity: The Visions of Gordon Parks and Jamel Shabazz*. Enjoy hosted wine and appetizers with Hickman-Winfield, followed by her personal tour of the show featuring the photography of her great uncle, Gordon Parks, and good friend, Jamel Shabazz.

FAMILY DAY: EXPRESSIONS OF DIGNITY, HONOR, AND LOVE

Sunday, February 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Minnesota Museum of American Art | 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul

Featuring: Empowerment Story Hour with Justice Alan Page!

How do you express dignity, honor, and love for a friend, relative, or neighbor? Gordon Parks used his camera and words, creating photos, films, poems, and books to share his understanding of and hopes for our world. Come to the M for a free afternoon of creative fun for all ages, inspired by the photography of Parks, Jamel Shabazz, and Den-Zell Gilliard on view in the galleries.

RELATED EXHIBITION

GORDON PARKS: A HOMECOMING

Rauenhorst Court

March 7–April 19, 2020

This companion exhibition will focus on Gordon Parks’s rich history in St. Paul, centered on his photography from the 1930s and early ’40s documenting life in the city’s historically African-American Rondo neighborhood, where he lived, on and off, from 1928–1941.

CURATOR TOUR: IN MEMORY OF GORDON PARKS, LED BY CURATOR ROBIN HICKMAN-WINFIELD

Saturday, March 7, 1 p.m.

Free * [RSVP requested](#)

Minnesota Museum of American Art | 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul

Take a tour of the winter exhibition led by Robin Hickman-Winfield, curator of show and great-niece of Gordon Parks, on the anniversary of his passing.

Commemorate the anniversary of the death of legendary photographer Gordon Parks with a tour of *Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity: The Visions of Gordon Parks and Jamel Shabazz* with Robin Hickman-Winfield, exhibition curator and great-niece of Gordon Parks.

ARTIST TALK: DEN-ZELL GILLIARD

Saturday, April 4, 1 p.m.

Free * [RSVP requested](#)

Minnesota Museum of American Art | Rauenhorst Court

Minneapolis-based documentarian Den-Zell Gilliard will discuss the influence of famed photographer Gordon Parks on his practice. From Parks, he inherited a belief that photography can serve as a weapon against racism. Gilliard will share more about his photographs selected to respond to the M’s exhibition *A Choice of Weapons, Honor and Dignity* on display in the Rauenhorst Court.

Minnesota Museum of American Art is one of the oldest visual arts organizations in Minnesota, with roots stretching back to the 19th century. Based in St. Paul, the M currently holds more than 5,000 artworks that showcase the unique voices of American artists, guided by the belief that art should reflect the constantly shifting

landscape that defines the American experience. The M opened its new museum facility in the Historic Pioneer Endicott in December 2018 and will expand further, with additional permanent collection galleries scheduled to open in 2020.

Free Admission * 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN, 55101 * [Directions and Parking](#)

Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 – 5 | Thurs., 11 – 8; closed Monday and Tuesday.

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