

ANTIQUES
And The Arts Weekly



Gordon Parks Foundation & Steidl Launch New Book Prize & Library

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. — The Gordon Parks Foundation and Steidl are expanding their ongoing partnership with the launch of the Gordon Parks Foundation/Steidl Book Prize and the opening of the Steidl Library, a collection of more than 3,000 art and photography books, at the foundation's headquarters in Pleasantville. Pioneering artist LaToya Ruby Frazier has been named the inaugural recipient of the prize, as an artist whose work exemplifies Parks' commitment to using photography as a powerful tool for advancing social justice.

Conceived of by the foundation's executive director Peter W. Kunhardt Jr and Gerhard Steidl, the Gordon Parks Foundation/Steidl Book Prize serves as a publishing platform for artists whose practice reflects and extends Gordon Parks' legacy. Published and distributed by Steidl, art book publisher, each book will feature new work by a contemporary or mid-career artist. Frazier's book, to be published in 2021, will feature new work by the artists and texts by notable writers, and will be edited by Michal Raz-Russo, associate curator of photography at the Art Institute of Chicago. Each book resulting from the prize will be marked by an exhibition and programming that will further advance the foundation's mission to extend Parks' collaborative legacy to a range of artistic, cultural and scholarly practices — by addressing how art can perpetuate social, cultural and political change.

In tandem with the launch of the prize is the opening of a comprehensive Steidl Library at the Gordon Parks Foundation. Encompassing more than 3,000 Steidl art and photography books and essay books, the collection includes out-of-print, one-of-a-kind and limited-edition publications that are rarely seen or often inaccessible to scholars and the public. The library includes works by some of the most significant



artists and photographers across history, in addition to Gordon Parks, including Berenice Abbott, William Eggleston, Robert Frank, Karl Lagerfeld, and Dayanita Singh. Access to the collection will be available to researchers by appointment beginning later this year.

The foundation and Steidl have worked together since 2010, having published 11 books, including the recently released *Gordon Parks x Muhammad Ali* (2019). Other collaborations include catalogs for major museum exhibitions, including "The New Tide, Early Work 1940-1950" (2018) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; "The Flavio Story" (2017) at the J. Paul Getty Museum; and "Invisible Man: Gordon Parks and Ralph Ellison in Harlem" (2016) at the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Gordon Parks Foundation is at 48 Wheeler Avenue #1. For information, 914-238-2619 or www.gordonparksfoundation.org.