



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **DELAWARE ART MUSEUM & CHRISTINA CULTURAL ARTS CENTER LAUNCH “EYE/I WITNESS GORDON PARKS ARTS COMPETITION”**

Wilmington, DE (August 13, 2008)—The Delaware Art Museum and the Christina Cultural Arts Center have partnered to launch the “Eye/I Witness Gordon Parks Arts Competition” in celebration of the many artistic mediums employed by Gordon Parks (1912 – 2006) to critical acclaim. This competition is being held in conjunction with the exhibition *Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks*, on view at the Delaware Art Museum, October 11, 2008 – January 4, 2009.

### **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

The three categories of the “Eye/I Witness Competition” are Photography, Poetry, and Film. Submissions should reflect the significant themes found in the works of Gordon Parks, and must be received between September 1 and September 26, 2008. The “Eye/I Witness Competition” is open to all interested participants, and no entry fee is required. Selected works will be recognized at an evening celebration at the Delaware Art Museum on Friday, November 7, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Categories and Directions for Submission**

Artists must submit a completed entry form and their work in at least one of the below mediums according to the following specifications:

#### Photography

Photographs must be submitted on a CD or via e-mail. All files must be JPG format, at least 300 dpi, and no larger than 1.5MB. Please do not submit photos on a brand-name photo CD. Entries will not be returned, so please do not submit your only copy of your work. If selected, artists are required to bring

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the chosen photographs to the Museum (suitably framed and wired for hanging) between October 18 and October 23. Photographs can then be picked up between January 8 and January 11, 2009.

### Poetry

Poems must be submitted in hard copy or e-mailed as a Word Document attachment. Entries will not be returned, so please do not submit your only copy of your work. If selected, poets will be invited to read their poem(s) during the evening celebration on Friday, November 7, 2008, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm.

### Film

Films must be submitted on a DVD. Each DVD may only hold one film clearly labeled on the DVD menu. Film length is not to exceed 60 minutes. Entries will not be returned, so please do not submit your only copy of your work. Selected films will be presented on November 23, 2008, at the Delaware Art Museum and on November 30, 2008, at the Christina Cultural Arts Center, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on both days.

### Additional Details

- Each artist may submit up to 2 works per category.
- Each artist may submit in all categories. A separate Entry Form is required for each category.
- All submissions must include a completed contest Entry Form. Submissions with incomplete forms will not be considered.
- Each submission must include a statement describing the artist's work. Limit statements to 75 words or less.
- E-mailed submissions must include all information found in the hardcopy Entry Form.
- Include on CDs, e-mails, hardcopy poems, or DVDs: 1) Your Name 2) Address 3) Phone Number 4) E-mail.
- If submitting via e-mail, please send to: [gpcontest@delart.org](mailto:gpcontest@delart.org)
- If submitting via postal mail, please send to:  
"Eye/I Witness Gordon Parks Art Competition"  
Delaware Art Museum  
2301 Kentmere Parkway  
Wilmington, DE 19806

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## **Entry Form**

The Entry Form is available online at [www.delart.org](http://www.delart.org) and in person at the Delaware Art Museum. One Entry Form must be completed per category when submitting.

## **Submission Period**

Submissions will be accepted between September 1 and September 26, 2008. Artists will be notified of acceptance by October 13, 2008.

## **Judging**

Judges will be an impartial group of local professional artists, educators, and curators.

## **Liability**

The artist assumes responsibility of art while on the property of the Delaware Art Museum. It is the responsibility of the artist to obtain any necessary releases from identifiable persons represented in a photograph or on film. The Christina Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) and the Delaware Art Museum (DAM) cannot assume responsibility for the damage or loss of entries in transit. CCAC and DAM have the right to reproduce any entry for contest publicity purposes. Contest participants must complete the release portion of the entry form.

## **Questions**

For any additional questions pertaining to the contest:

- **Photography entries:** Contact Heather Jo Wingate, Delaware Art Museum, at 302-351-8551 or [hwingate@delart.org](mailto:hwingate@delart.org)
- **Poetry and Film entries:** Contact Kim Graham, Christina Cultural Arts Center, at 302-652-0101 or [kgraham@ccac-de.org](mailto:kgraham@ccac-de.org)

## **About Gordon Parks**

After rising as a portrait and fashion photographer, Gordon Parks also began documenting social ills as part of the Farm Security Administration. In 1948, he became the first African American staff photographer for *Life* magazine and established an international reputation for his photo essays chronicling the lives of the poor and the Civil Rights movement.

Parks frequently combined photography with poetry, beginning with *A Poet and His Camera* in 1968. His other books of poetry include *Whispers of Intimate Things* (1971), *In Love* (1971), *Moments Without Proper Names* (1975), *Glimpses Toward Infinity* (1996), and *Eyes with Winged Thoughts* (2005).

In 1968, Gordon Parks adapted his novel *The Learning Tree* into a film, becoming the first African American to direct a major motion picture. He also wrote the screenplay, composed the musical score, and produced the film. His next feature as a director, *Shaft* (1971), helped give rise to a new genre of African American films.

### **About the Exhibition**

*Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks*, on view October 11, 2008 – January 4, 2009 at the Delaware Art Museum, is a retrospective exhibition that features 73 works selected by Gordon Parks (1912 – 2006) as examples of his most potent imagery.

### **Exhibition Organizer & Sponsors**

*Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks* was organized by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue are made possible by generous support from The Capital Group Foundation, the Cantor Arts Center's Hohbach Family Fund, and Cantor Arts Center's Members.

*Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks* is presented in Delaware by DuPont and JPMorgan Chase Foundation. In Delaware, this exhibition is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **About the Christina Cultural Arts Center**

The Christina Cultural Arts Center is a premier community school of the arts. Our mission is to bring arts education and multicultural programs to children, teens, and adults. Christina fulfills its mission by offering quality private and group instruction in music, dance, drama and visual art to people of varied ethnic heritages, ages, abilities, faiths, lifestyles, and communities. The Christina Cultural Arts Center is located in the heart of Wilmington, Delaware's business district at 705 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

### **About the Delaware Art Museum**

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: adults (18 – 59) \$10, seniors (60+) \$8, college students \$5, and youth (7 – 17) \$3, with children 6 and under entering for free. Admission fees are waived every Sunday thanks to support from AstraZeneca. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at [www.delart.org](http://www.delart.org).

Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum holds a world-renowned collection that focuses on American art and illustration from the 19th century to the present as well as the British Pre-Raphaelite movement. The Museum offers the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden, the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, studio art classes, the interactive Kids' Corner learning area, the delART Café featuring free Wi-Fi access, and the Museum Store with distinctive books and gifts.

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