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Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

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Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation presents “Gordon Parks. I am You. Selected Works 1942-1978”

Exhibition from 22 September 2017 to 5 January 2018 in The Cube,
Eschborn

Press preview on Thursday, 21 September 2017 at 11 a.m.

A camera doesn't simply take pictures. It can be a powerful tool against oppression, racism, violence and inequality. Gordon Parks (1912–2006) has referred to the camera as his weapon of choice and used the photographic medium his entire life in an intelligent and educational way to both expose the underbelly of the American way of life and to mediate between groups in a deeply divided society. The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation will present about 180 photographs, contact sheets, magazines and films, reflecting the broad spectrum of Parks's artistic work from 1942 to 1978 and offering an insight into his photographic and cinematic work. “Gordon Parks. I am you. Selected Works 1942-1978” will be on display from 22 September 2017 to 5 January 2018 at Deutsche Börse's headquarters, The Cube, in Eschborn.

Born as an Afro-American in 1912 in Kansas, USA, the self-taught photographer Gordon Parks came from a family of fifteen children and grew up confronted by poverty and segregation. At the age of twenty-five, he bought his first camera in a thrift store. Starting in 1942, he worked for the photography programme of the Farm Security Administration, a government programme set up to document the conditions of rural society in the United States. In 1948, Parks gained fame with a photo report on a gang leader named ‘Red’ in Harlem, New York. Parks was the first Afro-American photographer working for the Life Magazine, the then most popular photographic journalism magazine in the world. In the 1970s his comprehensive cinematic works also saw the light of day. In addition to his famous film works *The Learning Tree* and *Shaft*, he also produced numerous socially critical documentaries. As a photographer, author, director and composer, Parks worked with the most influential politicians, artists, celebrities and athletes of his time. He remained active in his work until his death in 2006.

As an important chronicler and supporter of the fight for equal rights for African-Americans, his work from the 1960s and 1970s address topics like poverty, marginalization and injustice, all of which have lost none of their explosive power to this day. His works vividly document the civil rights movement and daily life in major cities. Gordon Parks took portrait photographs of prominent leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, as well as of the boxer



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Muhammad Ali. With works such as the March on Washington in 1963 or „American Gothic“, the portrait of a black cleaning lady in front of the American flag, he created icons of the 20th century.

Aside from his famous black and white photographs, the exhibition also features his work in colour, such as fashion spreads and reports with white models that he produced in the 1940s and 1950 for Condé Nast and Life. Also on display are portraits of famous artists like Duke Ellington, Ingrid Bergman and Alberto Giacometti. With this fascinating simultaneity of glamour and misery, the commercial and humanitarian engagement of his opus offers an unequalled visual social history of the USA in the 20th century.

The exhibition was developed by C/O Berlin in cooperation with the Gordon Parks Foundation New York and under the patronage of US Consul General James W. Herman. The Deutsches Filmmuseum Frankfurt will present an extensive programme of Gordon Parks's films in November 2017 as a cooperating partner.

Notes to Editors:

A press preview will take place on 21 September 2017 at 11 a.m. The exhibition will open on Thursday, 21 September 2017 at 6.30 p.m. Please register with leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com.

In the attachment, you will find an overview of the press pictures. We are happy to send you the images in print quality on request.

Information for visitors:

The exhibition can be viewed free of charge. Prior booking is required.
Dates for the tours are: 22 September; 11 October; 26 October; 8 November; 27 November; 5 December and 5 January 2018, all at 6 p.m.
Further dates for groups are possible by arrangement.
Place: The Cube, Mergenthaler Allee 61, 65760 Eschborn

You can sign up for the public tours on:

<https://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org/en/events.php>

Contact:

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The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation. The foundation's activities focus on collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of

contemporary photography in 1999. Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 1,700 works by over 120 international artists. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse is one of the key aims of the foundation. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. Together with The Photographers' Gallery in London, the foundation awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize each year. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium. Further information is available at www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org.