The Early Work of Groundbreaking Photojournalist Gordon Parks
– In Pictures

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In the 1940s, Parks went from being a self-taught photographer to an in-demand figure in the industry, shooting for Ebony, Vogue, Fortune and Life. For the first time, his formative decade is being celebrated in an exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

Gordon Parks, Self-Portrait, 1941, silver gelatin print.

Gordon Parks, Tenement Dwellers, Chicago, 1950, silver gelatin print.

Gordon Parks, Trapped in abandoned building by a rival gang on street, Red Jackson ponders his next move, 1948.

Gordon Parks, Untitled, 1942, silver gelatin print.

Gordon Parks, A coal 'sketcher' is a helper on a coal truck. The number of trips he makes a day determines the extent of his salary. Harlem River, New York City, November 1946, 1946.
Gordon Parks, Deacon’s corner in the Church of God the Christ, November 1942.

Gordon Parks, Charles White in front of his mural.

Gordon Parks, A Woman in her Bedroom November 1942, 1942, silver gelatin print.

Gordon Parks, American Gothic, Washington DC, 1942, silver gelatin print.