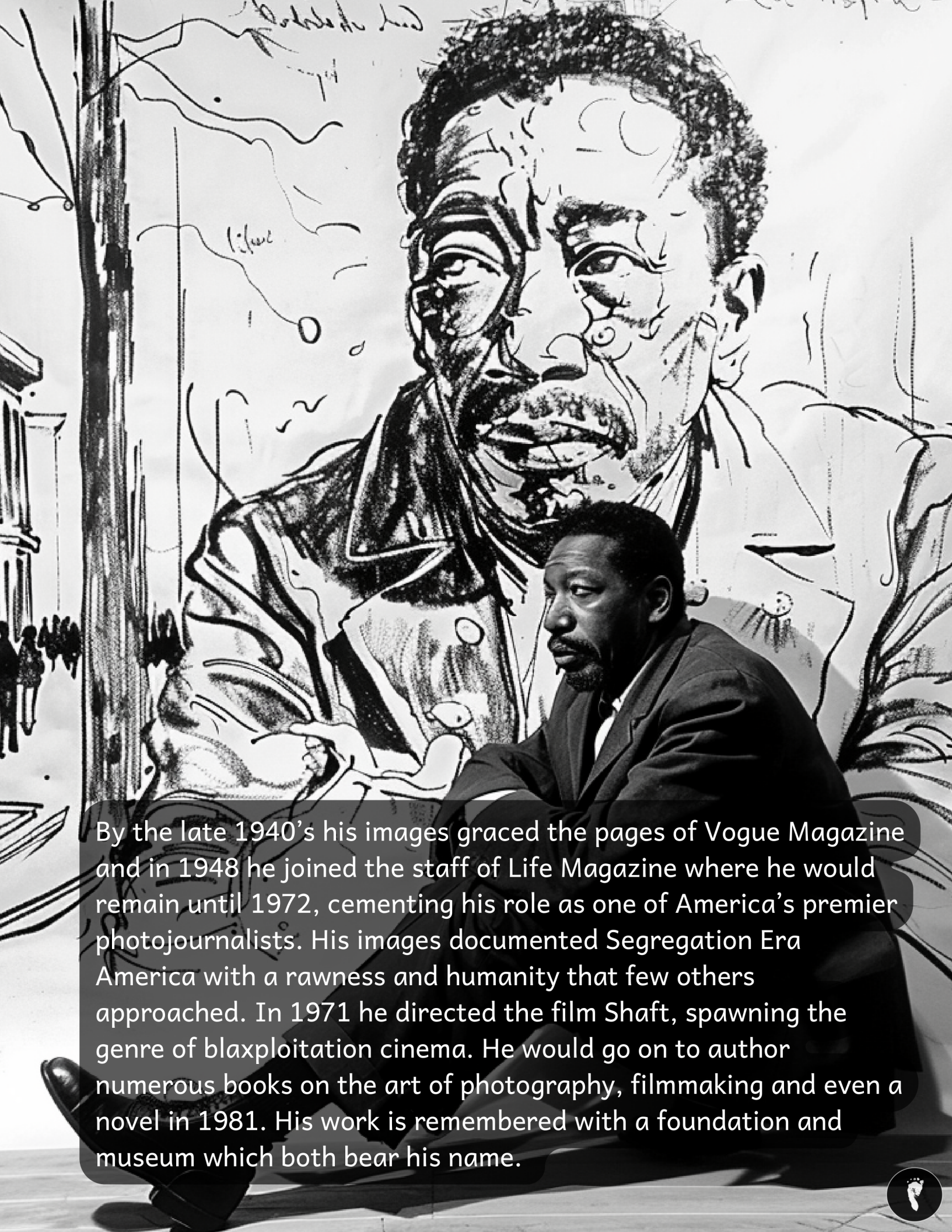




Photographer, Filmmaker, Author and Composer, Gordon Parks was born the youngest of 15 children in Fort Scott, Kansas. After living on his own from the age of 15, Parks picked up his first camera at 28 and never turned back. In 1940 he and his wife moved to Chicago where he opened a portrait studio. Within a year he had earned a fellowship with the Farm Security Administration where he would produce some of his most famous images documenting ordinary Black life.





By the late 1940's his images graced the pages of Vogue Magazine and in 1948 he joined the staff of Life Magazine where he would remain until 1972, cementing his role as one of America's premier photojournalists. His images documented Segregation Era America with a rawness and humanity that few others approached. In 1971 he directed the film Shaft, spawning the genre of blaxploitation cinema. He would go on to author numerous books on the art of photography, filmmaking and even a novel in 1981. His work is remembered with a foundation and museum which both bear his name.

