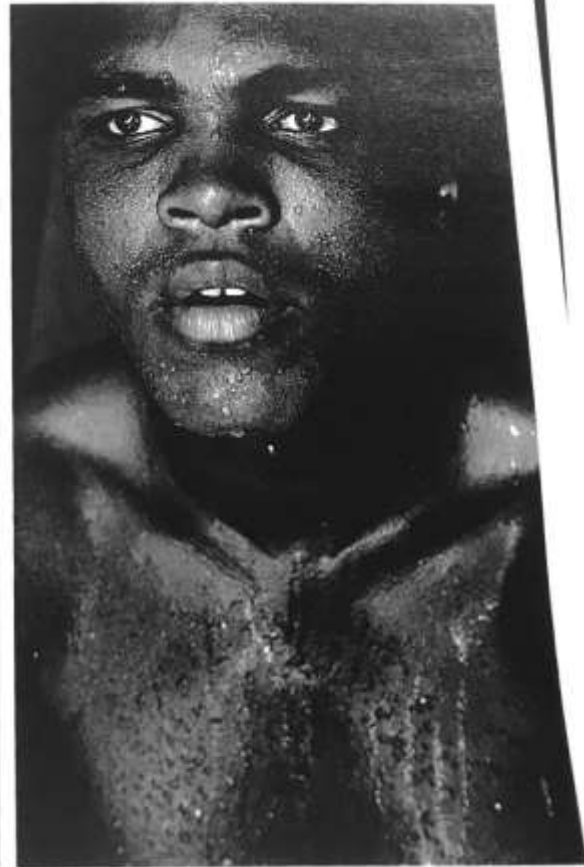


A R T D E S K

GORDON PARKS X MUHAMMAD ALI: ▶
The Image of a Champion, 1966 | 1970
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art / Kansas
City, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer Gordon Parks documented the private and public persona of American heavy-weight champion Muhammad Ali during two feature assignments for *Life* magazine, one in 1966 and another in 1970. It was a tumultuous time in Ali's career when he was newly affiliated with the Nation of Islam and speaking out against the Vietnam War. Although they had distinct backgrounds, both Parks and Ali had battled prejudice as black men and engaged with social justice and civil rights in their work, sharing an awareness of how the media could shape popular opinion. This exhibition, organized with the Gordon Parks Foundation, includes about fifty-five photographs, many of which were never originally published, revealing the riveting results of the meeting



between two cultural titans. February 14–July 5
▶ nelson-atkins.org