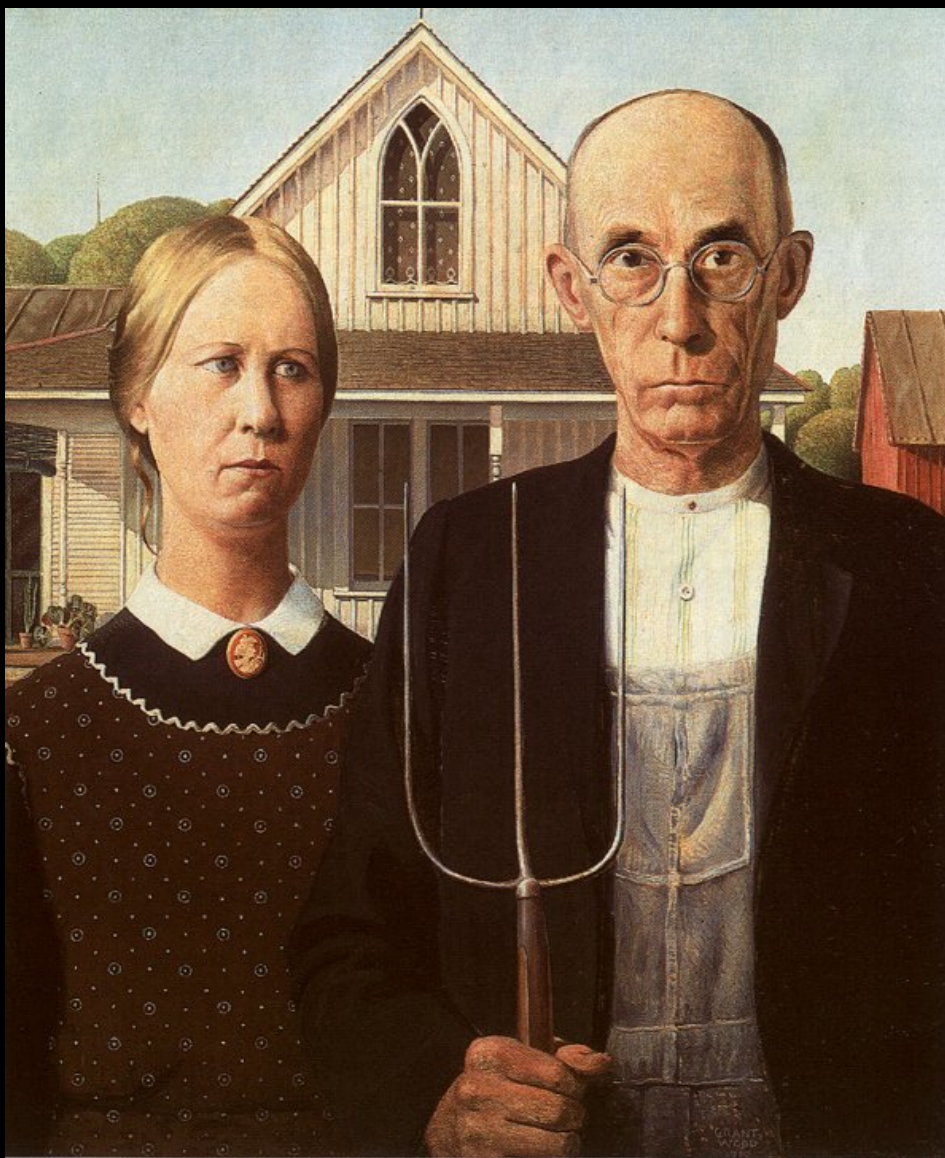


# On Common Ground: Grant Wood and the Photography of the Farm Security Administration

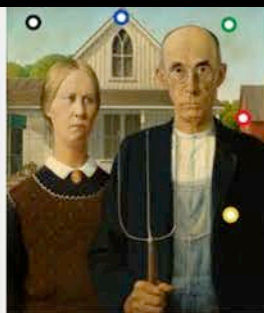
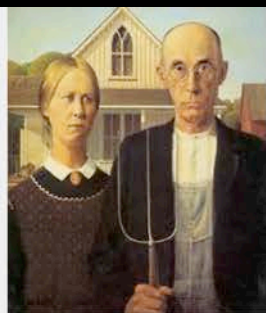
James S. Swensen  
Associate Professor of Art History and the History of Photography  
Brigham Young University



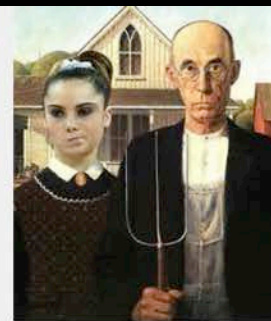
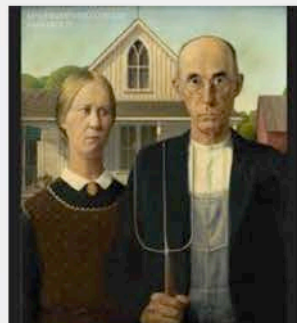


Grant Wood, *American Gothic*. 1930

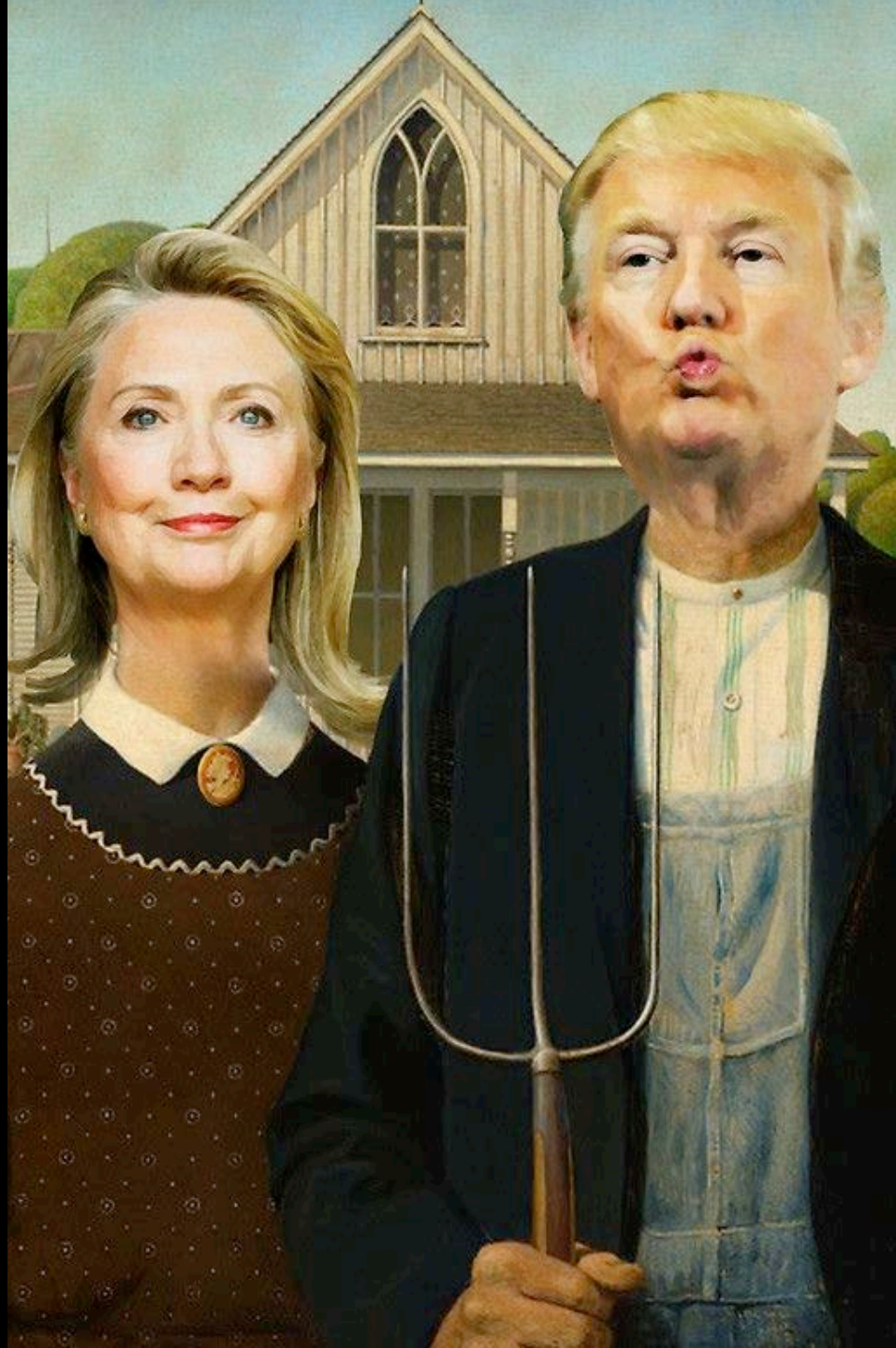


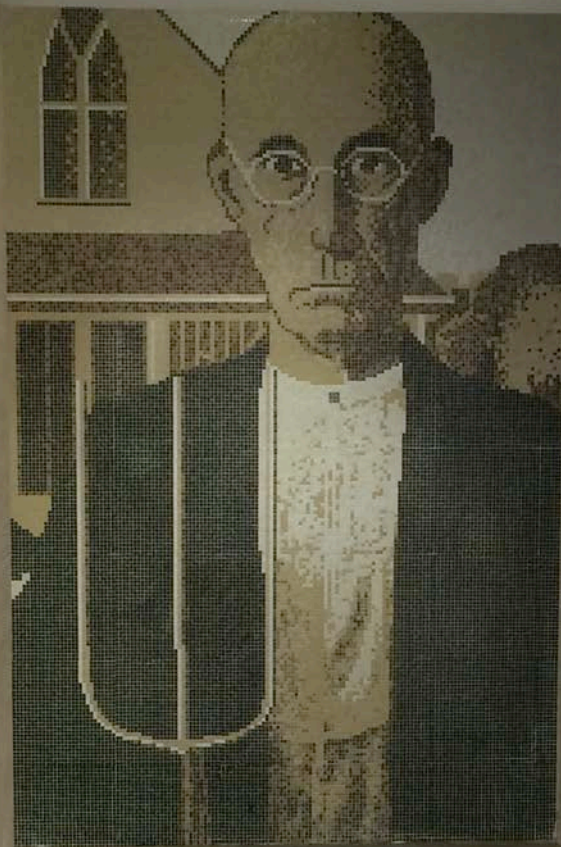


396 x 473 - artandvillains.tu...







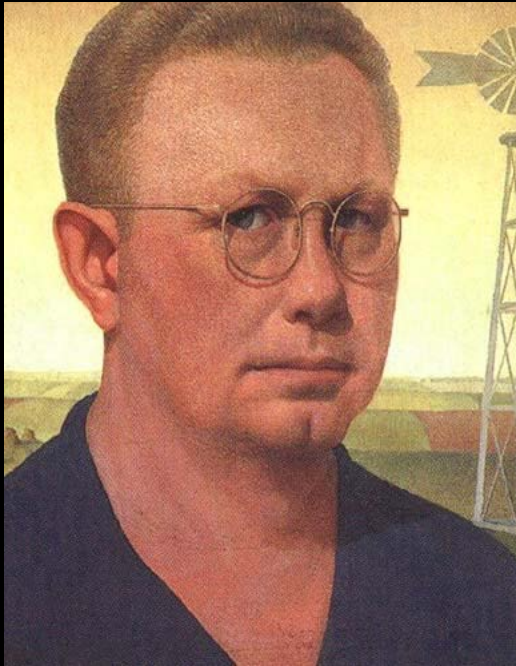




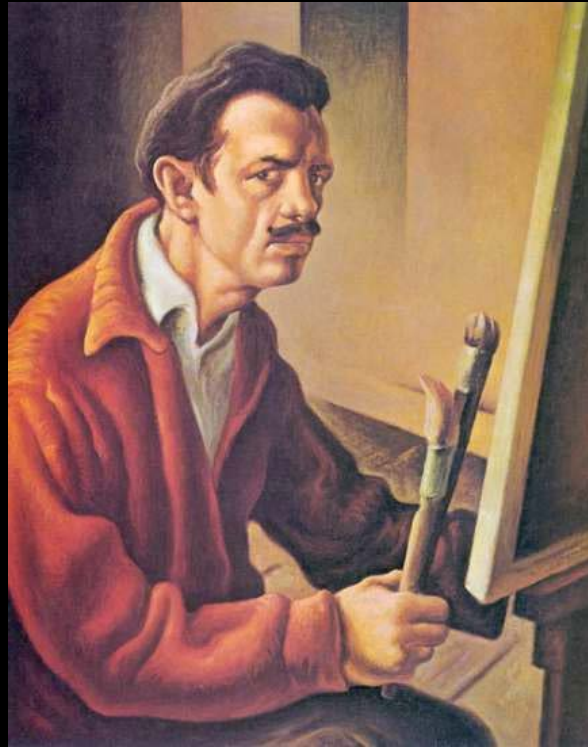
Gordon Parks, *American Gothic*, 1942







Wood



Benton



Curry



Grant Wood



Roy Stryker

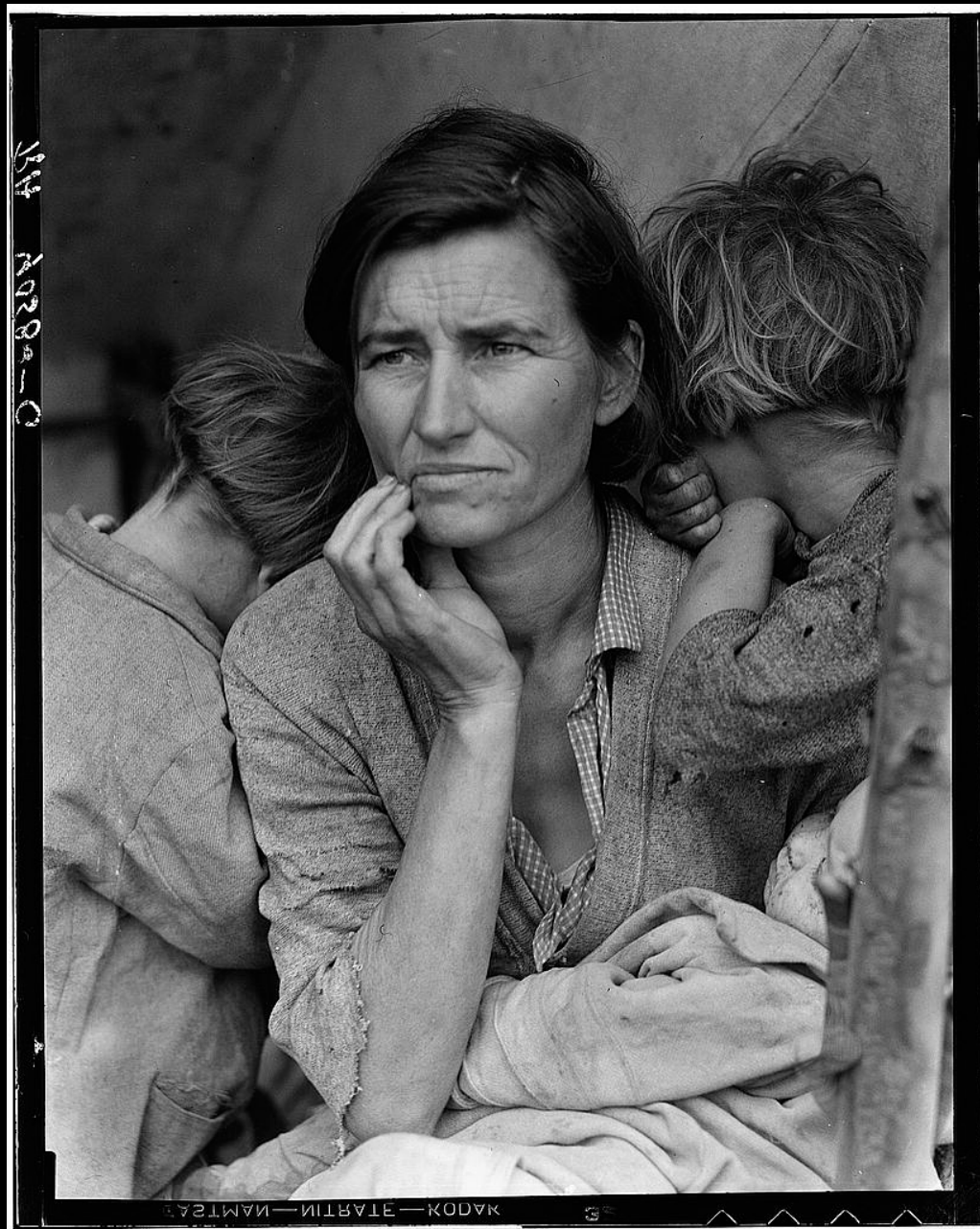




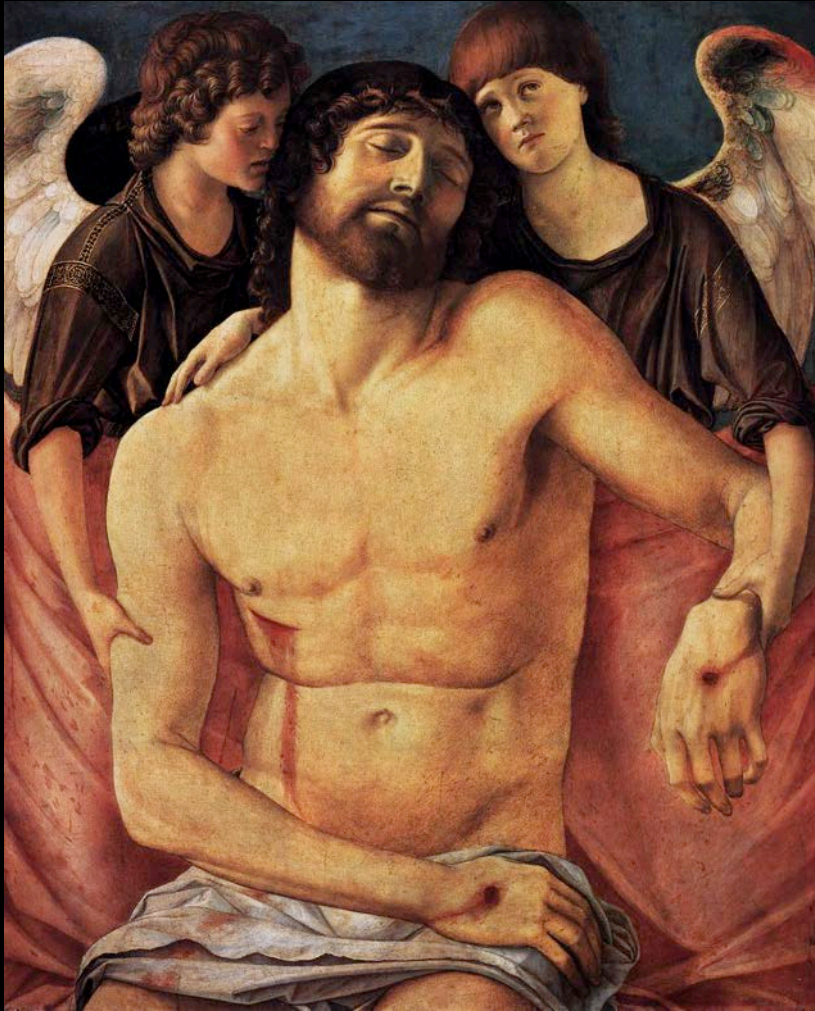




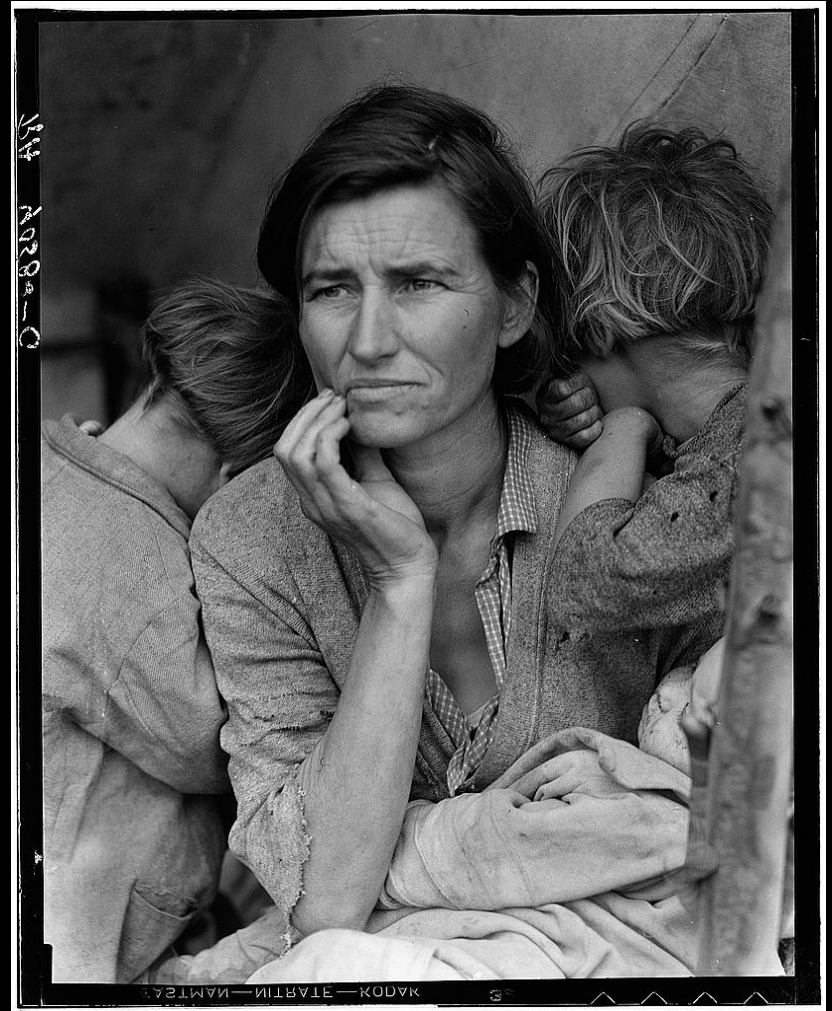




Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo California. March, 1936\*

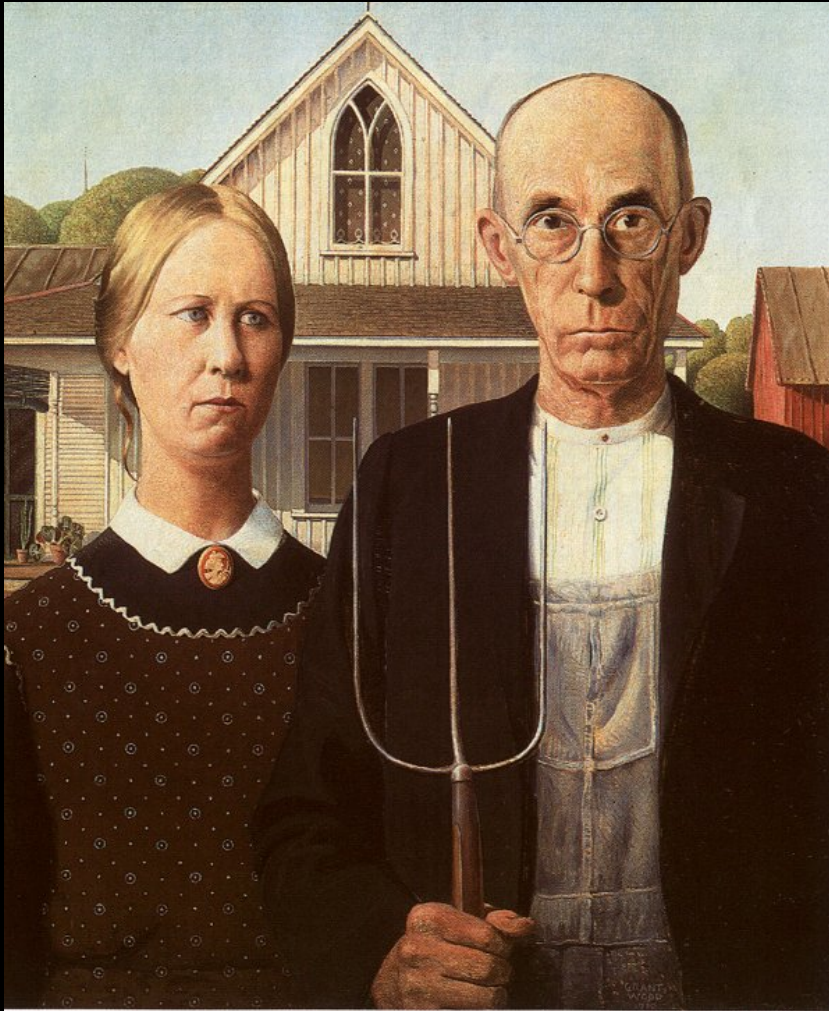


Giovanni Bellini, *Christ Supported by Two Angels*,  
c. 1480

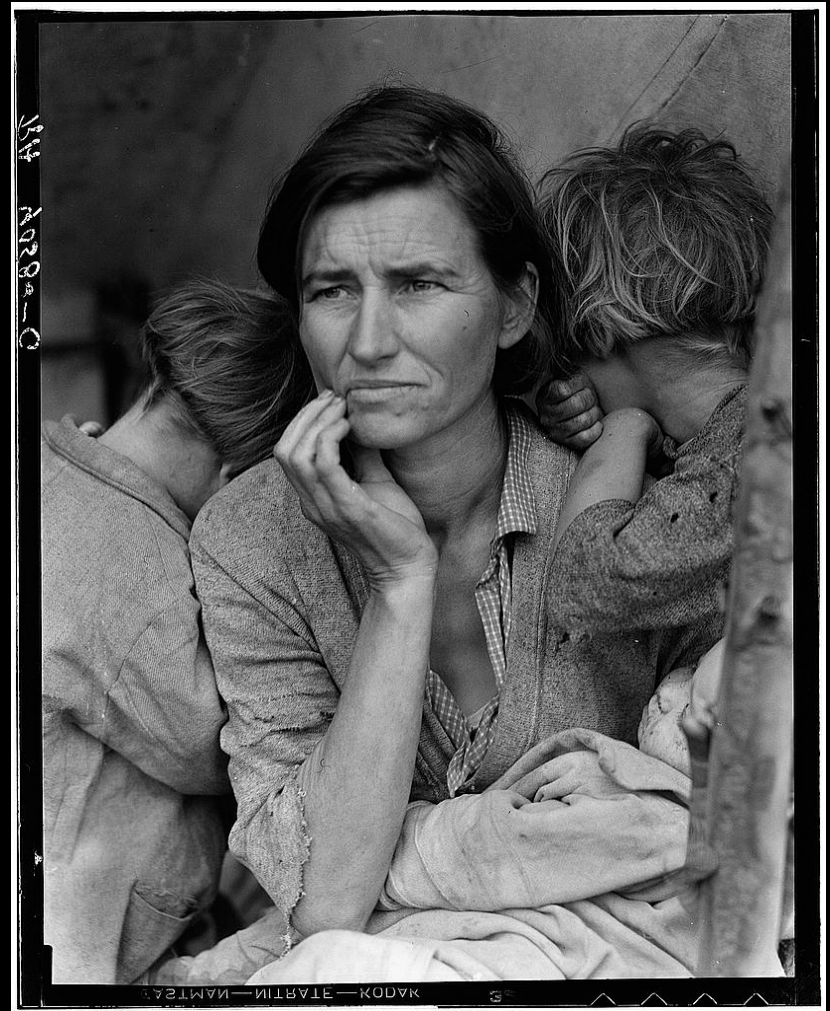


Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo  
California. March, 1936





Grant Wood, *American Gothic*. 1930



Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo  
California. March, 1936





Grant Wood, *Fall Plowing*, 1931





Arthur Rothstein, *Father and Sons Walking in the Face of a Dust Storm, Cimarron County*, 1936



Arthur Rothstein, *The Plow that Broke the Plains, Look at it Now, Cimarron County*, 1936



Russell Lee





Russell Lee



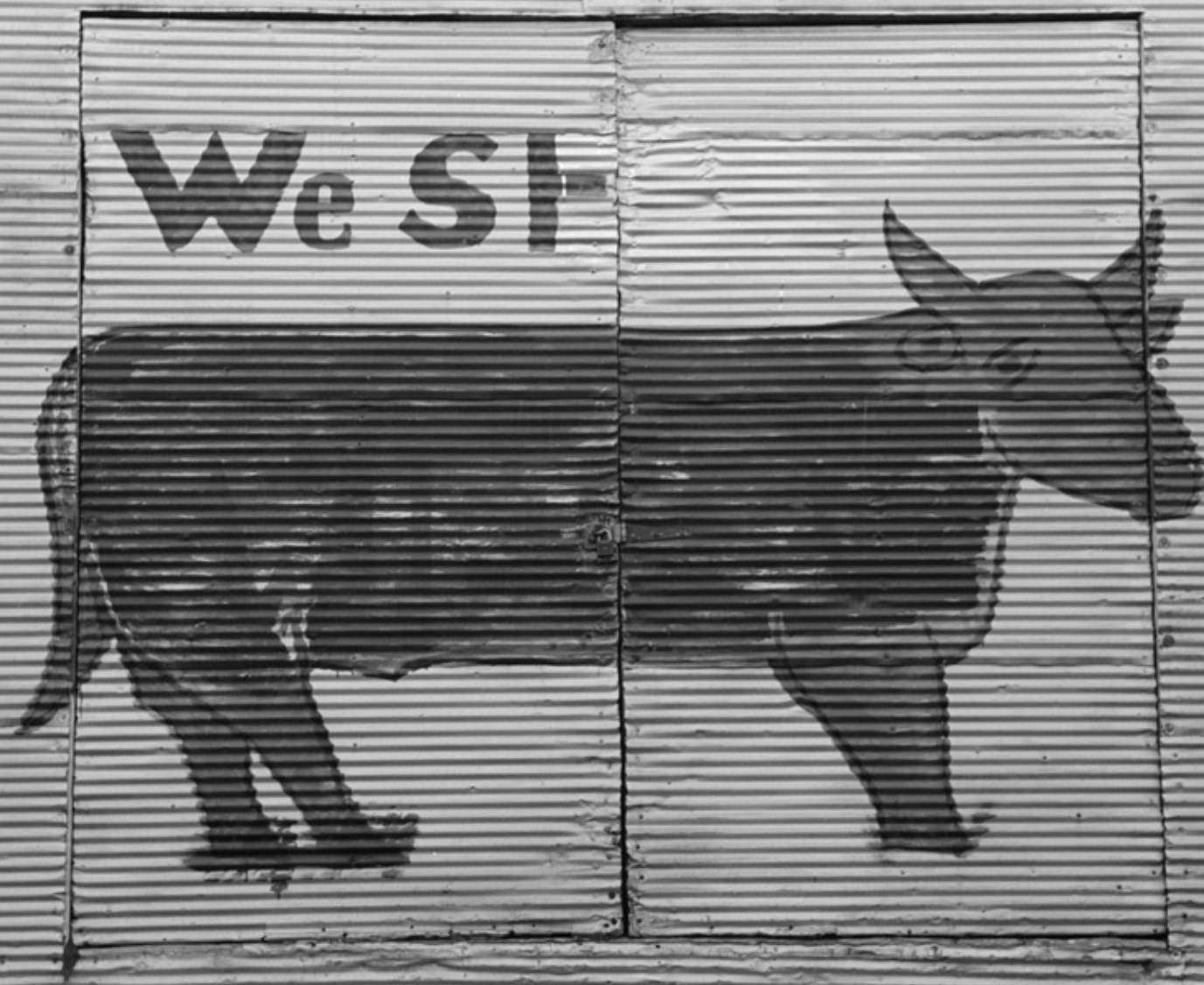
Doris Emrick Lee



Doris Lee, *Thanksgiving Diner*, 1935

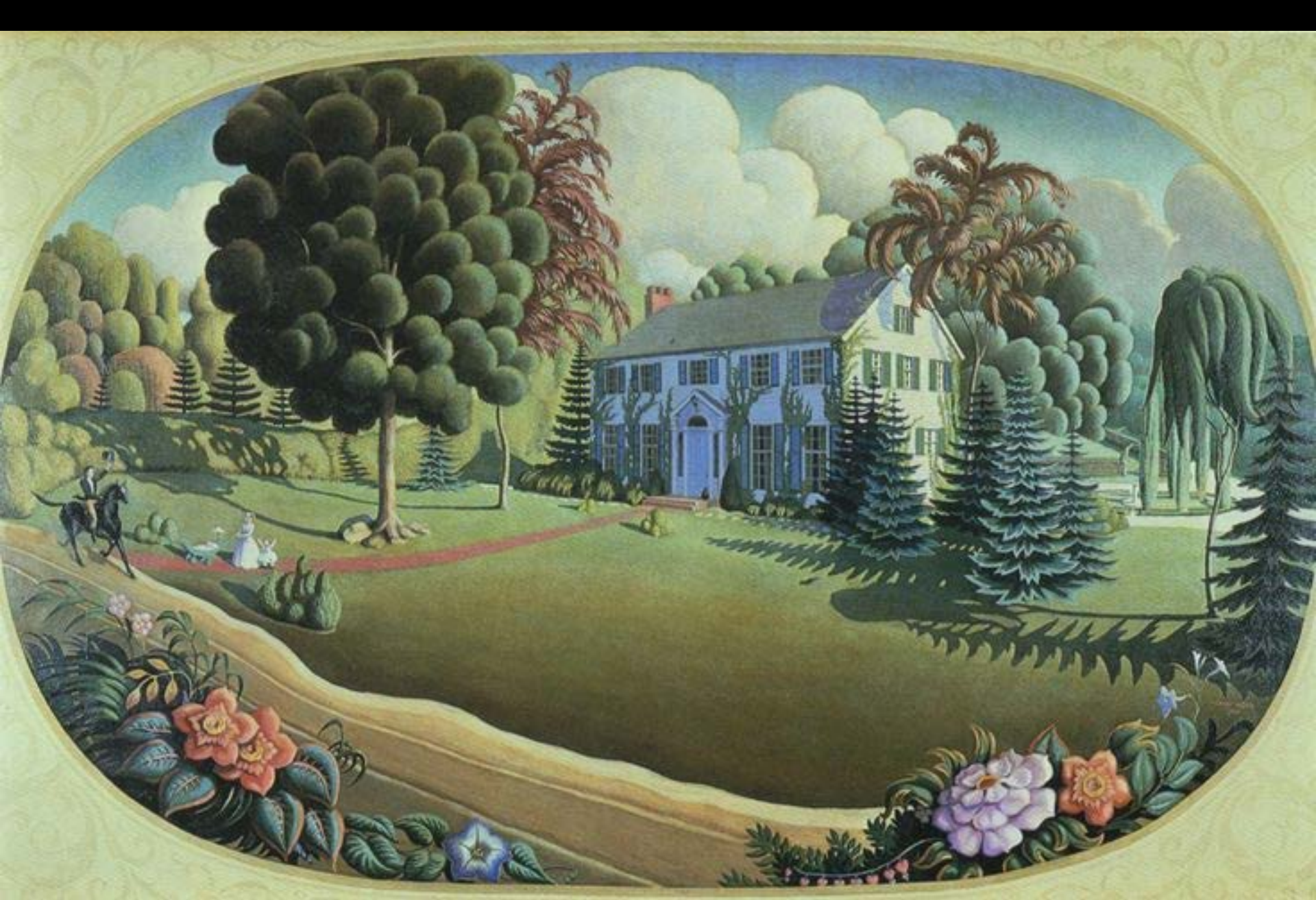




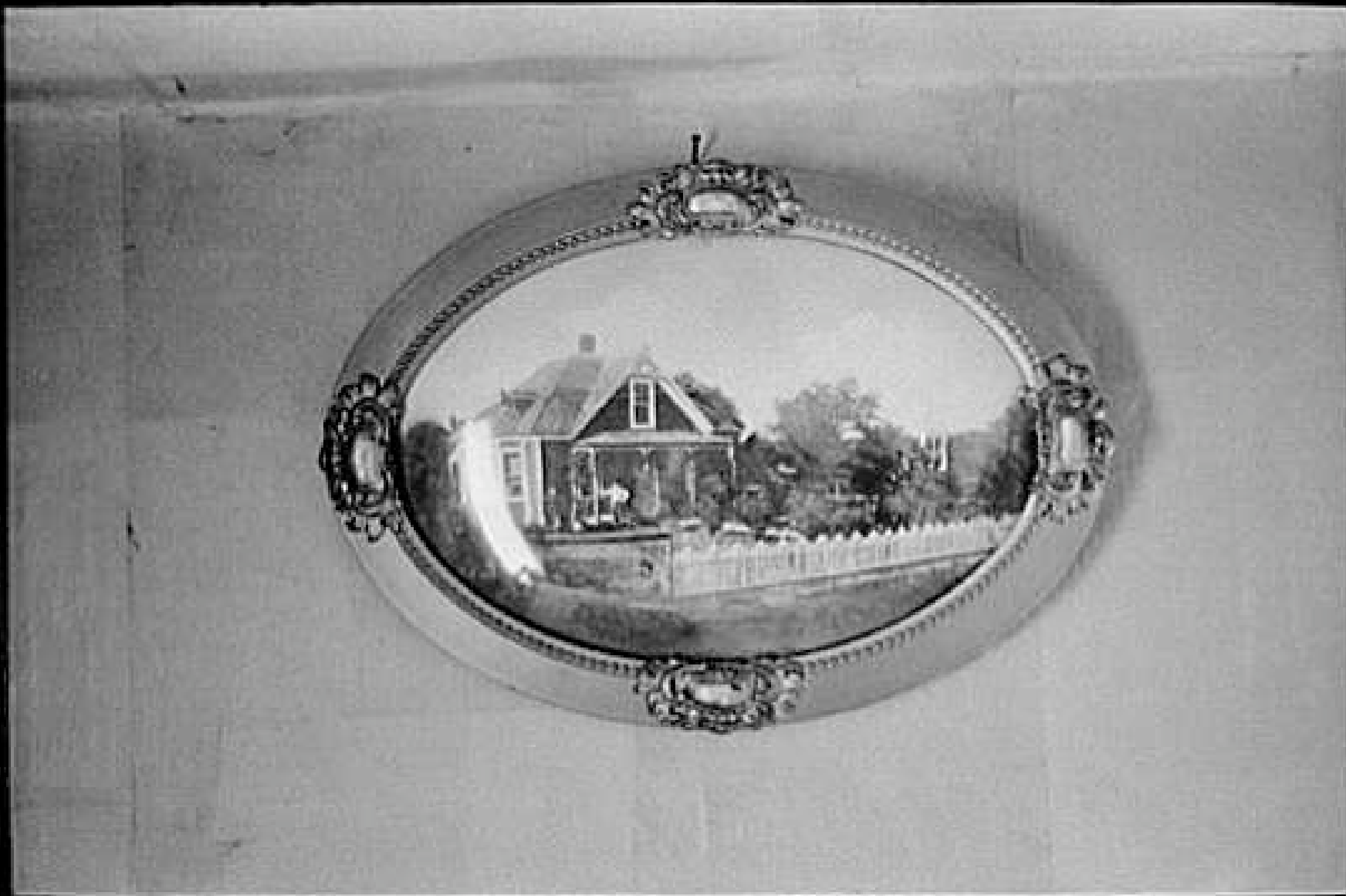


Russell Lee, *Primitive painting*, Delhi, Louisiana. Jan. 1939





Grant Wood, *Overmantel Decoration*, 1930



Russell Lee, *Picture of their farm home in Oklahoma. Hanging in living room of the George Huttons, Pie Town, New Mexico. 1939*



*Russell Lee, Primitive painted tray in house of Fred Morgenflash, farmer near Marseilles, Illinois, Jan. 1937*





*Russell Lee, Early American chair on  
farm of Fred Rowe, south of  
Estherville, Iowa, Dec. 1936*





*Russell Lee, Wall painting and decoration by local artist in a cafe in Onawa, Iowa, December 1936*

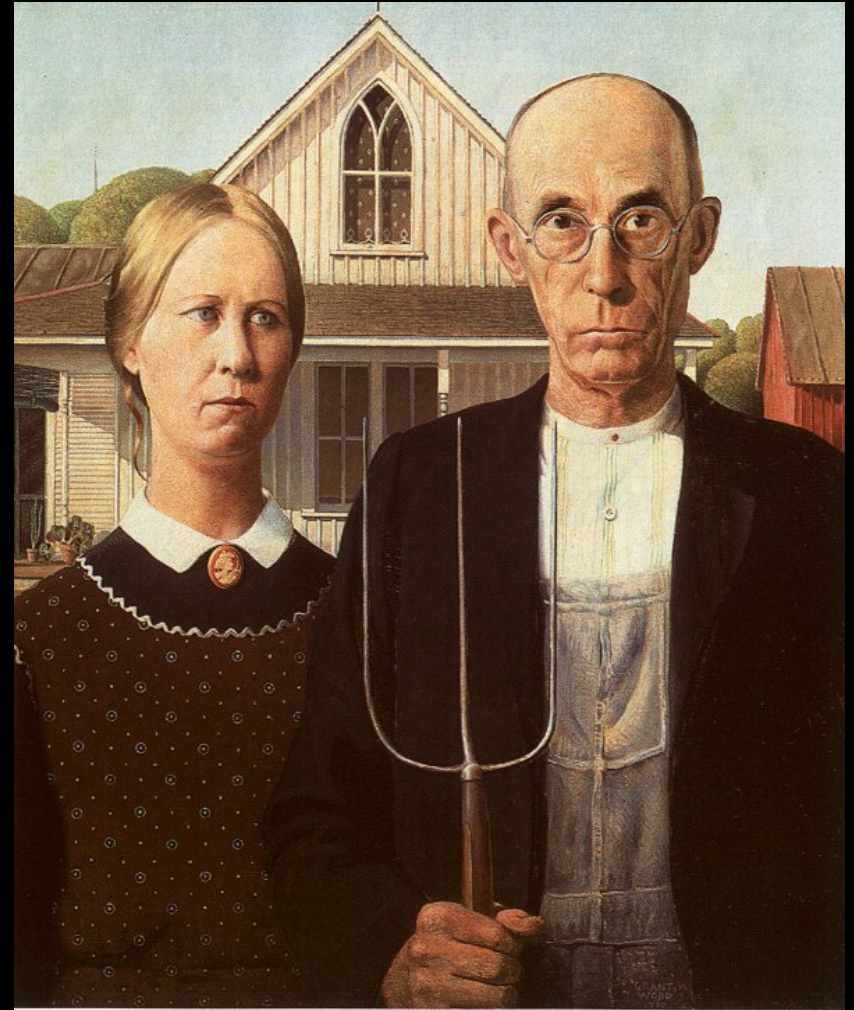
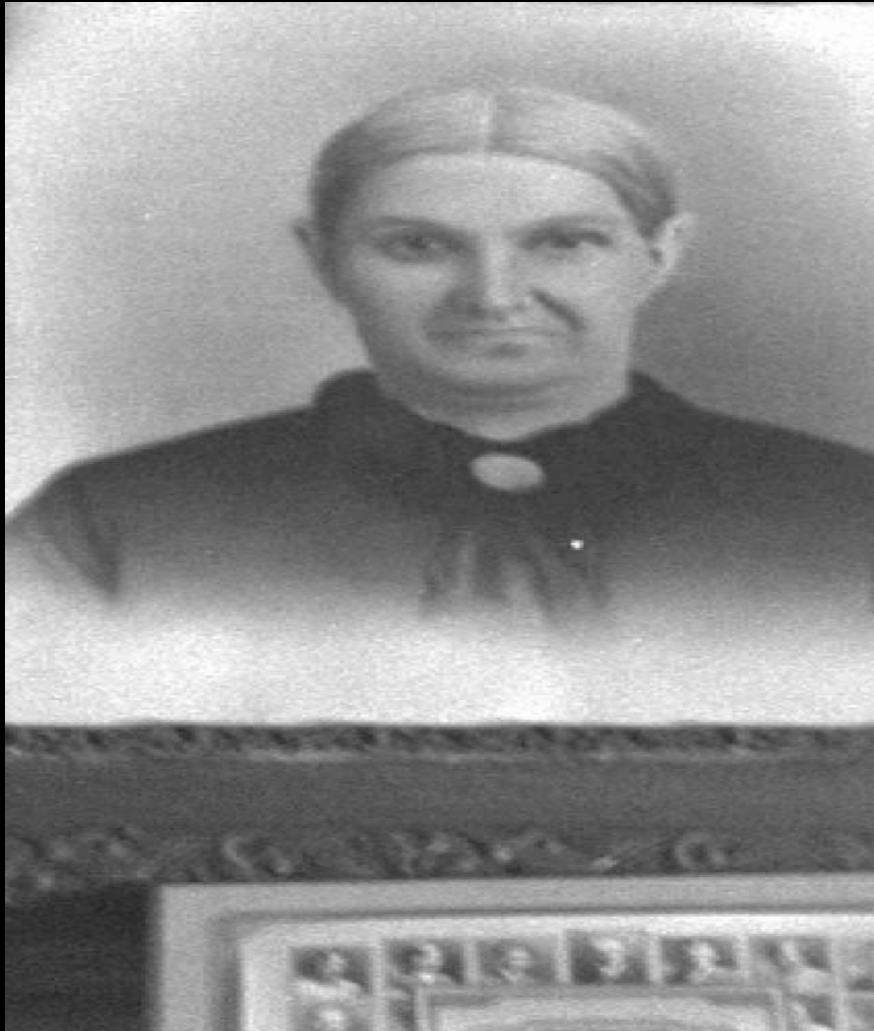


*Russell Lee, Family portrait in home of Fred Rowe, farmer near Estherville, Iowa, Dec. 1936*

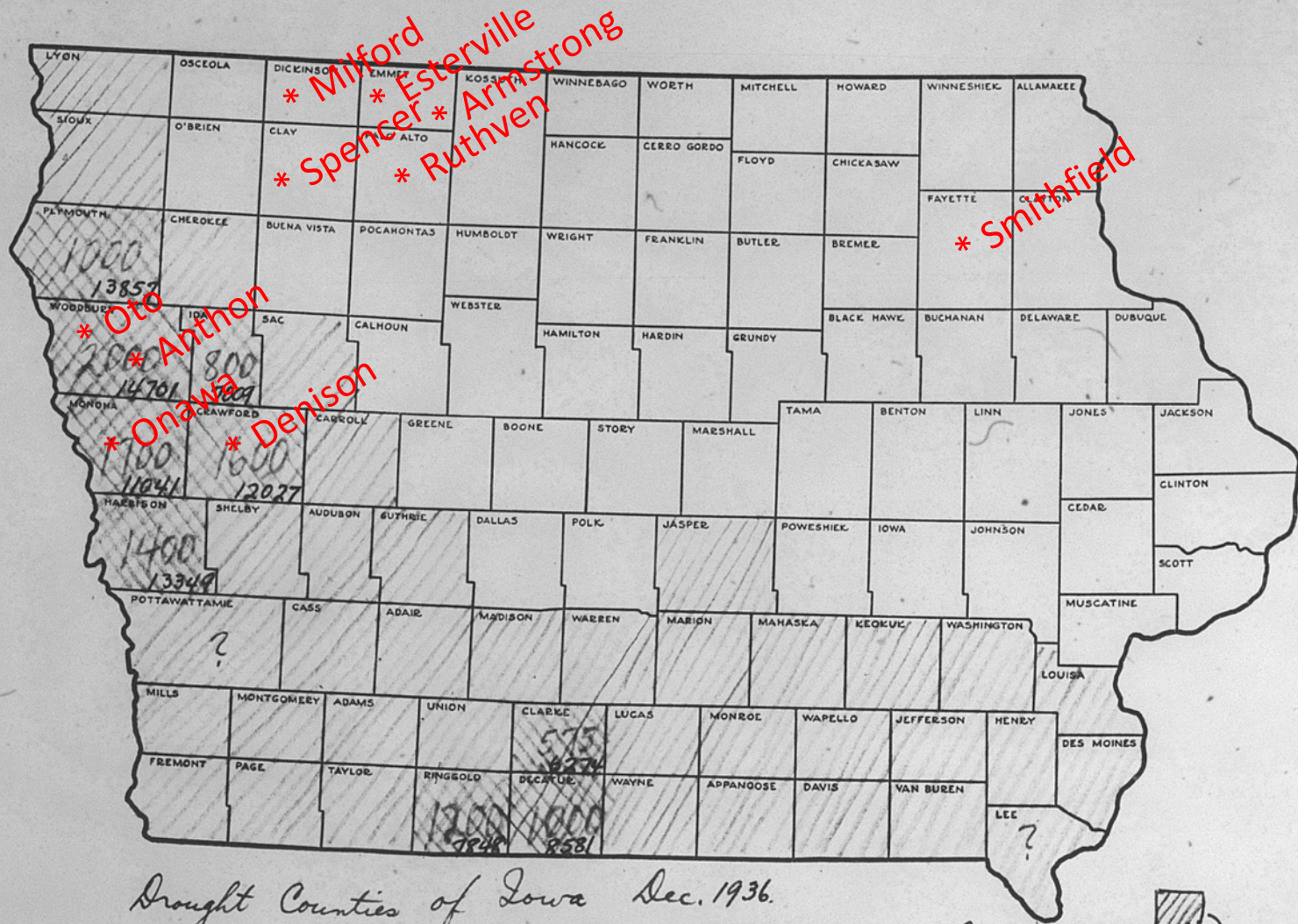


*Russell Lee, Family portrait in home of Fred Rowe, farmer near Estherville, Iowa, December 1936*









Drought Counties of Iowa Dec. 1936.

[?] Probably Very Severe Drought Counties.  
 [000] → Rural Farm Population 1930 Census

Legend

- [Solid Black] → Severe Drought.
- [Cross-hatched] → Very Severe Drought.
- [Hatched] → No. Families to receive RR & WPA emergency grants (Estimate)







*Russell Lee, Edgar Allen and his wife at the rear of house  
on farm near Milford, Iowa, December 1936*



*Russell Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Miller and  
dog, Spencer, Iowa, Dec. 1936*

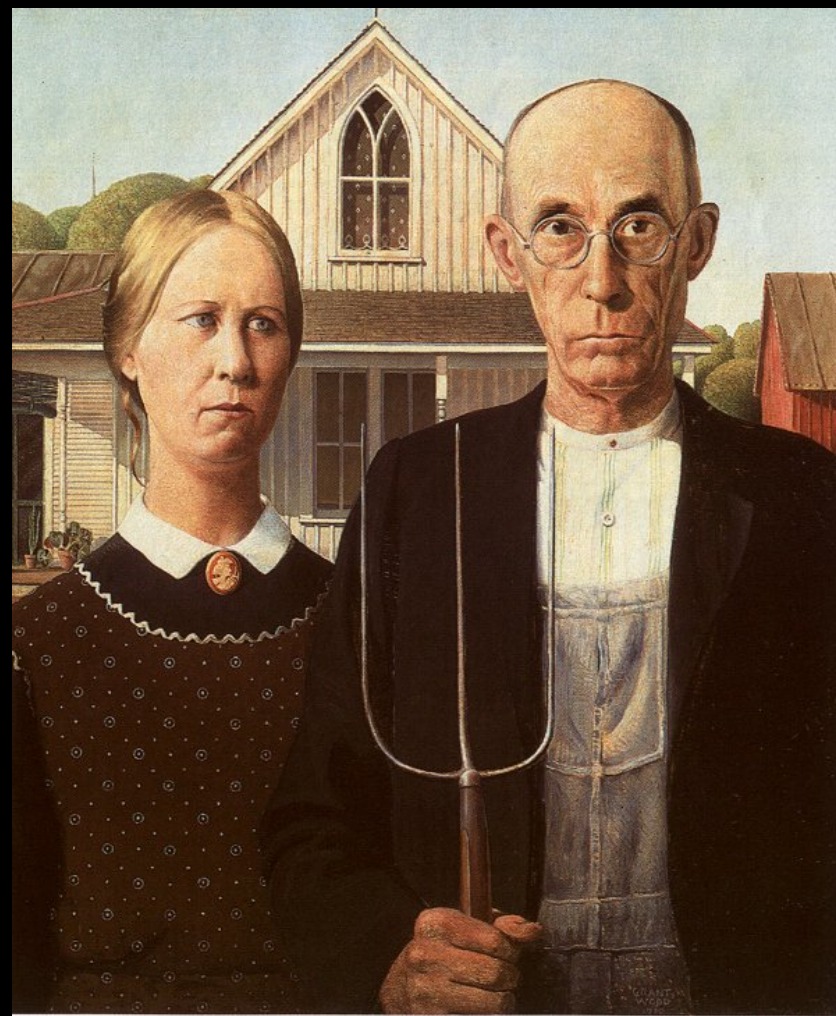


*Russell Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Aldrich,  
tenant farmers on farm owned by an  
absentee landlord near Ruthven,  
Iowa, December 1936*





*Russell Lee, Mike Maloney and wife on farm near Denison, Iowa. They are buying groceries on credit, with no reserve of resources, December, 1936.*





*Russell Lee, Mr. Rauhauser, wife and one of his seven children, Ruthven, Iowa. He works as a farm hand. At present he is out of work. He has made application for direct relief, December 1936*



*Russell Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Merriott on  
rented farm of 160 acres near Estherville,  
Iowa. Until recently owned by loan  
company; it has been sold to a private  
party. It is the third farm Merriott has lost  
in the past ten years, December 1936*





*Russell Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Fretty on their farm near Armstrong, Iowa. The land is rented from a loan company, and they have started farming with the help of a resettlement loan, December 1936*



*Russell Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banta, farmers near Anthon, Iowa. They have groceries to last for only ten days unless they sell some of their livestock which is most essential for farming next spring. They hardly have a ton of wheat straw, and all the WPA money has been spent for livestock feed, December 1936*





Russell Lee, [Untitled photo, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banta, farmers near Anthon, Iowa.  
December 1936]



*Russell Lee, Closeup of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ostermeyer, homesteaders, Miller Township, Woodbury County, Iowa. They have lost their farm to a loan company, December 1936*





*Russell Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ostermeyer, homesteaders, Miller Township, Woodbury County, Iowa. They have lost their farm to a loan company, December 1936*





Russell Lee, *The hands of Mrs. Andrew Ostermeyer, wife of a homesteader, Woodbury County, Iowa December 1936*









*Russell Lee, Christmas dinner in home of Earl Pauley. Near Smithfield, Iowa. Dinner consisted of potatoes, cabbage and pie, December 1936*



Grant Wood, *Dinner for the Threshers*, 1935



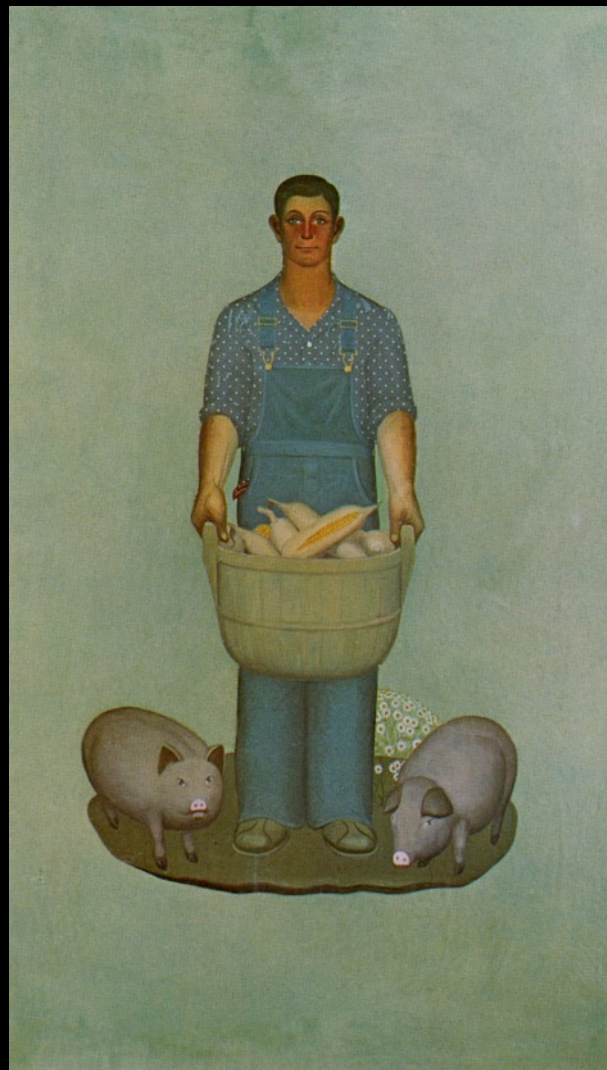


Doris Lee, *Thanksgiving Diner*, 1935

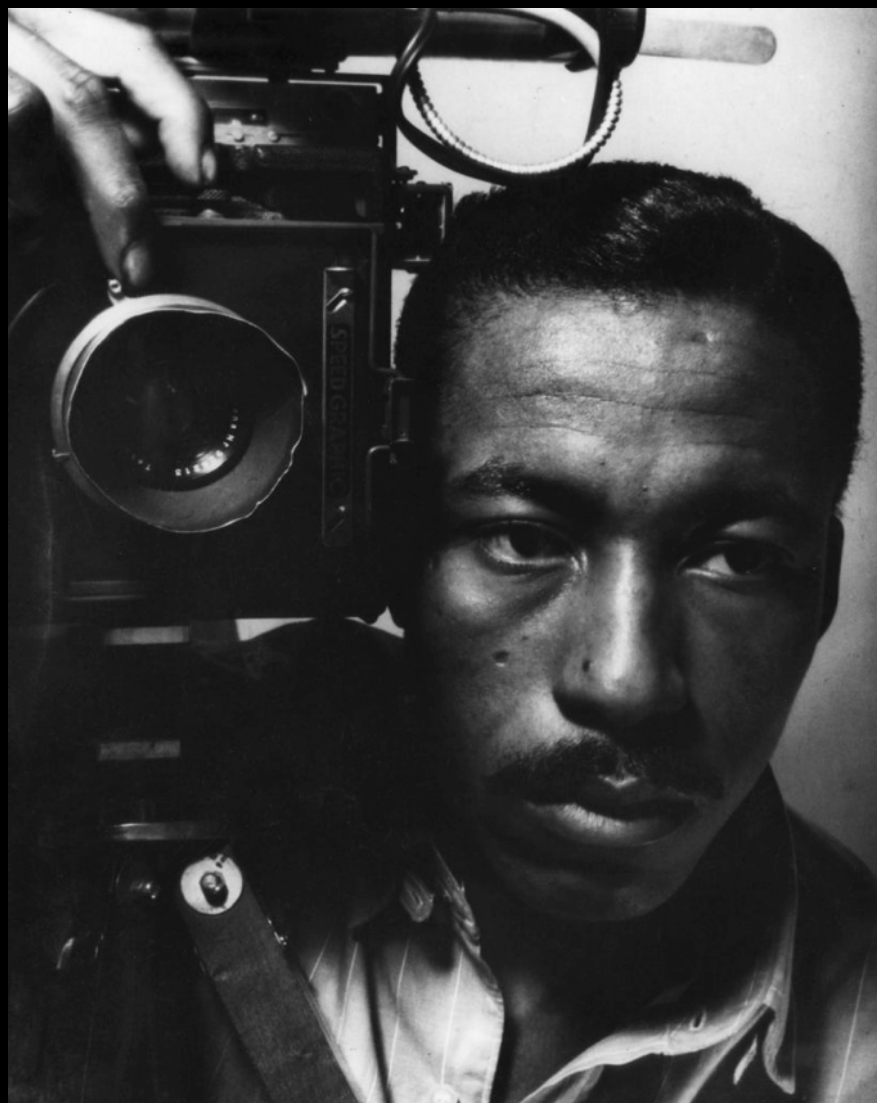




*Russell Lee, William Rall, FSA Client, standing amidst Kaffir Corn on his farm in Sheridan County, Kansas, August 1939*



Grant Wood, *Farmer and Farmer's Wife*, 1932

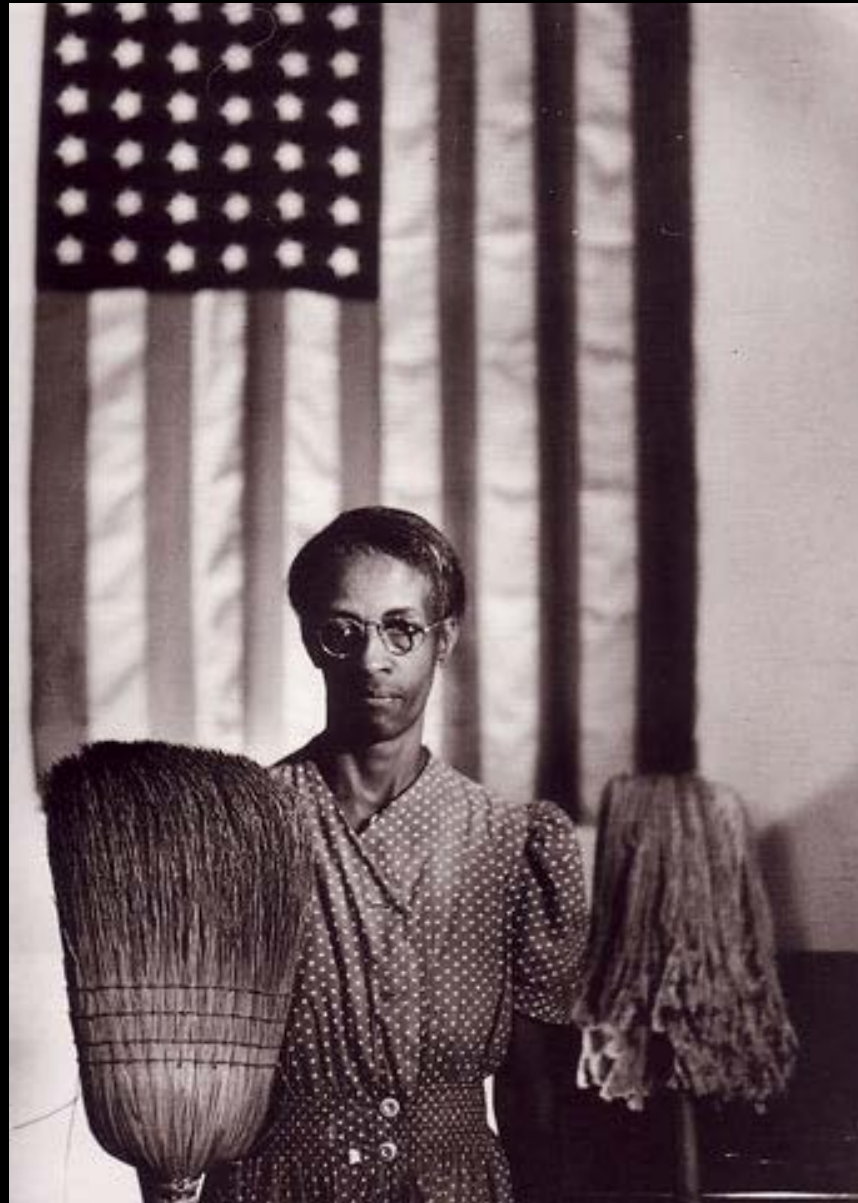


Gordon Parks, *Self Portrait*, 1945





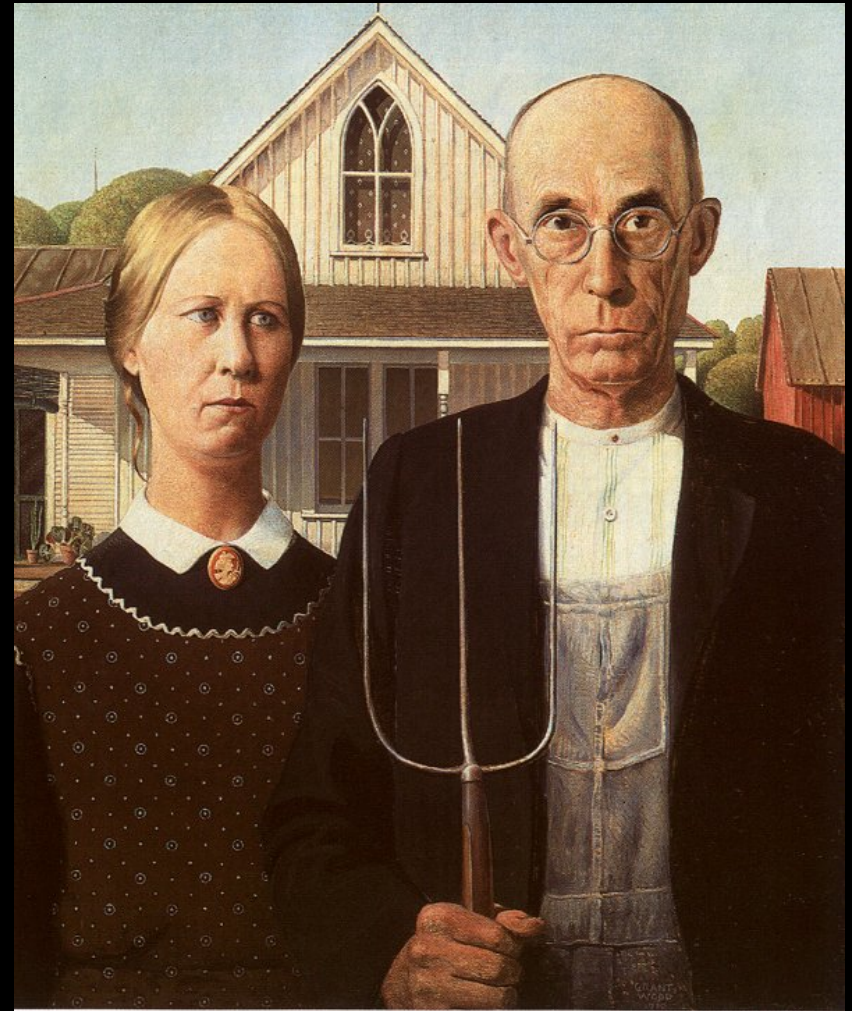
Jack Delano, *Negro Maid Washington D,C, , 1941*



Gordon Parks, *American Gothic*, 1942

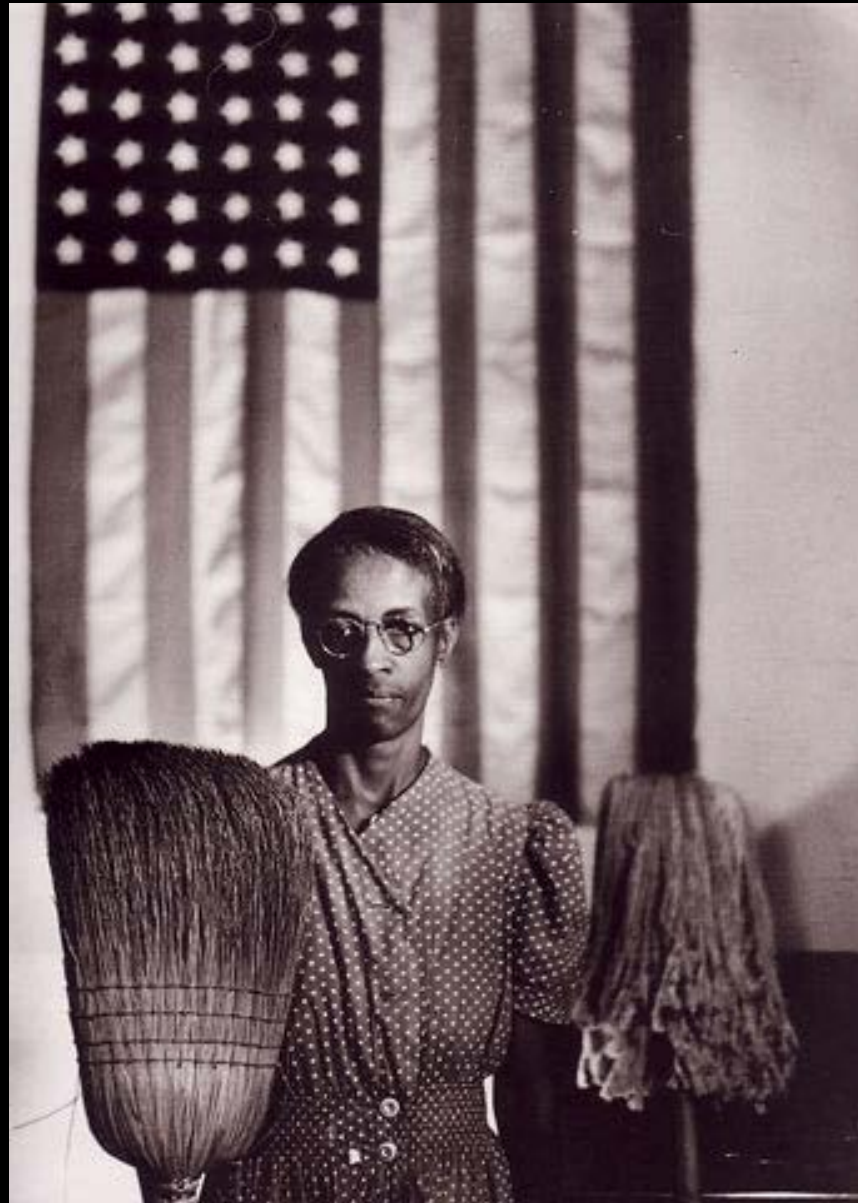


Gordon Parks, *American Gothic*, 1942



Grant Wood, *American Gothic*.  
1930





Gordon Parks, *American Gothic*, 1942

# GORDON PARKS

How the Photographer Captured  
Black and White America



Carole Boston Weatherford

illustrations by  
Jamey Christoph



Boiling mad, Parks vows to lay bare racism with his lens. He shares his vision with his boss, who points him toward his subject.

*Talk to her.  
She knows struggle.*

She is Ella Watson, a cleaning lady in the building where Parks works. She supports five children on just over one thousand dollars a year.





But Gordon's most famous shot  
will be American Gothic.

In the newspaper, the photo  
exposed to the nation  
the unfairness of segregation.

Standing before  
the flag of freedom,  
cleaning lady Ella Watson  
holds the tools of her trade  
and the hopes of  
her grandchildren.



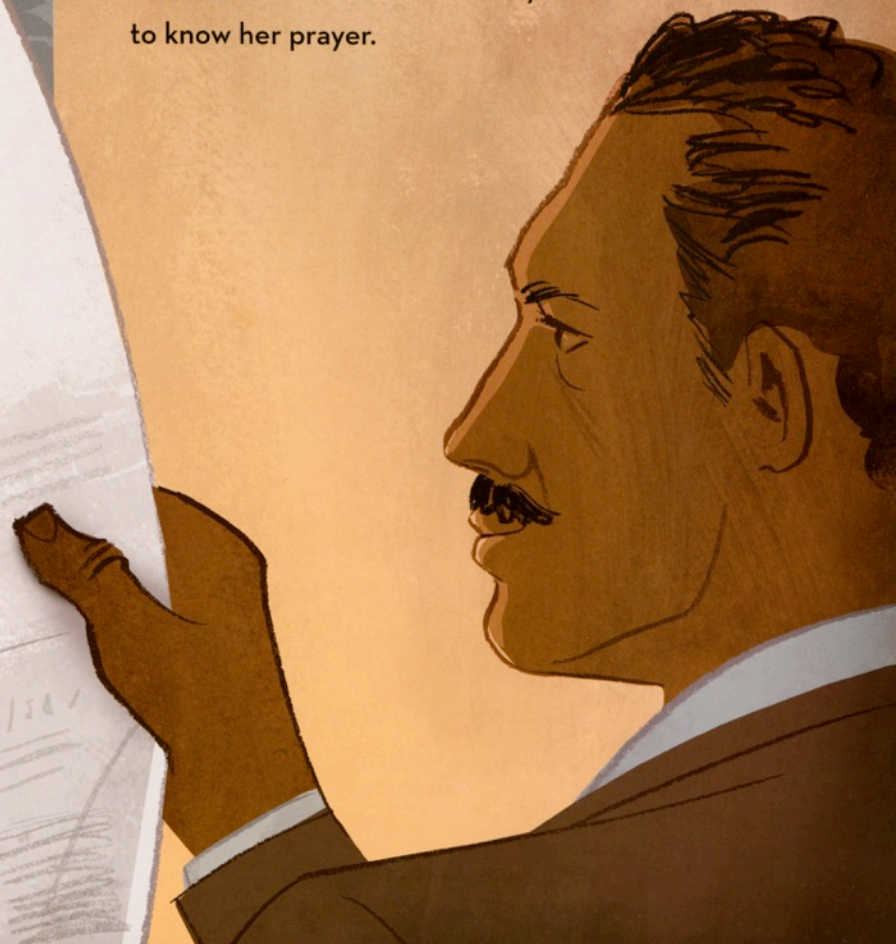


She knows all too well  
that the opportunities  
the flag symbolizes are denied her  
because of skin color.

Yet, she dares to dream of—and strive for—better.

Through Gordon's lens,  
her struggle gained a voice.

You don't have to hear her story  
to know her prayer.



Thank You.



*Jack Delano, Mr. Colson, tobacco farmer near Suffield,  
Connecticut hanging tobacco up in his barn for curing, Sept.  
1940*