

KARA WALKER

PRINT AND INSTALLATION ARTIST

Kara Walker is an artist best known for her cut-out silhouette images that viscerally explore depictions and caricatures of race, violence, gender, sexuality, and exploitation.



Art21, Kara Walker: Starting Out | Art21

▼ "Extended Play," Youtube.

▲ *Freedom, a Fable*, 1997, paper.



"HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS SO MURKY AND VIOLENT AND MESSED-UP AND INAPPROPRIATE. AND I THINK MY WORK DRAWS ON THAT. IT COMES FROM THERE. IT COMES FROM RESPONDING TO SITUATIONS LIKE THAT, AND IT PULLS IT OUT OF AN AUDIENCE."

BIOGRAPHY

- Born in 1969 in Stockton, California and raised in Atlanta, Georgia
- Earned BFA in 1991 from the Atlanta College of Art and MFA in 1994 from the Rhode Island School of Design
- Has won many awards, including a MacArthur Foundation Award in 1997 and an Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship in 2008
- Was the United States' representative to the 2002 Bienal de São Paulo

Is a professor of visual arts for Columbia University's MFA program

Currently lives and works in New York

The Katastwóf Karavan (maquette), 2017, painted laser-cut stainless steel. © Kara Walker



▲ One of five prints from the suite *"The Means to an End--A Shadow Drama in Five Acts, 1995*, aquatint and etching on light cream Somerset Satin wove paper.



- Interested in the ways people remember and stereotype history, often representing it through deliberately grotesque and uncomfortable imagery
- Often uses a combination of silhouettes, objects and projections to create fully theatrical, immersive installations
- Also draws on the history of shadow puppetry and old animation