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.

“HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS SO MURKY AND VIOLENT AND MESSED-UP AND INAPPROPRIATE. AND I THINK MY WORK drawing on that. It comes from there. It comes from responding to situations like that, and it pulls it out of an audience.”

Art21, Kara Walker: Starting Out | Art21

“Extended Play,” Youtube.

Freedom, a Fable, 1997, paper.
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 Paolo
- Is a professor of visual arts for Columbia University’s MFA program
- Currently lives and works in New York


- 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