

## Freedom, A Fable: A Curious Interpretation of the Wit of a Negress in Troubled Times



Untitled de Kara Walker



## Freedom, A Fable: A Curious Interpretation of the Wit of a Negress in Troubled Times, 1997

Untitled de Kara Walker, 2014

### In the Shadows

Disquieting silhouettes by **Kara Elizabeth Walker** (b. 1969) recall inhumane treatment of enslaved people in the Antebellum era. Her depictions of racial violence and stereotypes challenge us to reflect on the legacy of slavery and presence of bigotry in contemporary life.

### Take a closer look

The artist manipulates positive and negative space to create detailed figures and objects. Notice the mood created by her intricate jet-black shapes against stark white backgrounds.

### In her own words

"I wanted to make work where the viewer wouldn't walk away; [they] would either giggle nervously, get pulled into history, into fiction, into something totally demeaning and possibly very beautiful."

### Who knew?

Considered artist's multiples, *Freedom, A Fable* is from an edition of 4,000 and *Untitled de Kara Walker* is one of 1,000. The latter commemorated Walker's 2014 installation *A Subtlety*, an "homage to the unpaid and overworked" in America, at Brooklyn's former Domino Sugar Refinery.

Kara Elizabeth Walker, *Freedom, A Fable: A Curious Interpretation of the Wit of a Negress in Troubled Times*, 1997; Ink on paper, laser-cut black card stock, and leather binding, 8¼ x 9½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Marla Prather; © Ellie Bronson

Kara Elizabeth Walker, *Untitled de Kara Walker*, 2015; Ceramic, 8 x 8 x 4½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Promised gift of Steven Scott, Baltimore, in honor of Dr. David Driskell; Photo by Lee Stalsworth

