



**Kara Walker**  
**A Black Hole is Everything a Star  
Longs to Be**

£50.00

A unique opportunity to encompass the celebrated and impacting universe of Kara Walker, this publication gathers together 600+ works on paper realized by the artist between 1993 and 2020 — most of them being reproduced for the first time, as they come out from her until now zealously-guarded private archive.

Renowned for her recent monumental installations, drawing on paper remains the foundation of Walker's creative practice, offering an air of spontaneity and unfiltered emotion which make this volume an unprecedented insight into Walker's world, influences, and topics. Many of her works on paper are executed with a brush, which lends them a flowing and open dynamic. Small sketches, studies, collages, and meticulously finished large-format works appear side by side with diaristic notes, typewritten reflections on index cards, and dream journals. The intimacy of each individual page contrasts with the stunning range of works.

Flipping through this publication, the reader effectively becomes an eyewitness to the genesis of Walker's art, observing her as she enacts her thinking on the paper and adapts, invents, and transforms figures and narratives. Scrutinizing her own identity—as an artist, an African-American, a woman, and a mother Walker probes both its personal dimension and its social implications in the context of current events. The latter aspect is prominent in four new sensational portraits that reflect on Barack Obama's presidency and lasting influence.

Born in Stockton (California) in 1969, Kara Walker lives in New York. When she was 13, her family moved to Atlanta. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Atlanta College of Art in 1991 and a Master of Fine Arts from the renowned Rhode Island School of Design in 1994. She rose to prominence in the mid-1990s with wall-sized silhouette installations. One of the most acclaimed artists working in the United States today, Kara Walker adopts traditional artistic approaches to create provocative work executed with extraordinary technical finesse while addressing history, race relations, gender roles, sexuality, and violence. Walker does not propose a conciliatory view of the past; rather, she prods the viewer to question established narratives and entrenched myths. She is unsparing in her analysis of deep-rooted conflicts and persistent social ills. Her most recent solo exhibitions include *Fons Americanus*, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London, 2019–2020; and *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, 2017–2018.

Designed by Gavillet & Cie, Geneva, the book features more than 600 reproductions as well as three essays by Anita Haldemann, Head of the

Kunstmuseum Basel Prints and Drawings Department and show curator, cultural historian Maurice Berger, and Michael Bank Christoffersen, art historian and HEART–Herning Museum of Contemporary Art Chief Curator.

Published with Kunstmuseum Basel, this publication accompanies Kara Walker touring exhibition at Kunstmuseum Basel (May 16–August 23, 2020), HEART–Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Herning (Fall 2020), and De Pont Museum, Tilburg (January–April 2021).

#### Product Details

Artist(s)	Kara Walker
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Editor(s)	Anita Haldemann
Publisher	JRP   Editions
ISBN	9783037645574
Format	softback
Pages	600
Illustrations	650 colour
Dimensions	280mm x 215mm

Publication Date: Jun 2020

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Distributed by  
Cornerhouse Publications  
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Manchester  
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England

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