

Artist(s)

Kara Walker (born 26th November 1969) is an African American contemporary painter, silhouettist, print-maker, installation artist, filmmaker and professor. She is best known for her room-sized tableaux of black-paper silhouettes. Kara Walker loves to tell stories about her ancestry through silhouette art. She earned a degree from the Atlanta College of Art in 1991 and in 1994 she began working on silhouettes to explore slavery and other parts of her African ancestry. She is regarded as among the most prominent and acclaimed Black American Artists working today.

Year 4 Working in the Third Dimension Skills:

1. Sketch lines with accuracy using backwards forwards sketching techniques
2. Draw simple outlines from images
3. Cut accurately
4. Arrange paper cut outs to convey emotions
5. Use space to create perceived distance
6. Refine work drawing on feedback from others



7 Elements of Art

silhouette	a dark shape and outline of someone or something visible in restricted light against a brighter background	backwards forwards sketching	a natural sketching action in which the hand moves from the wrist, from left to right and back again
opaque	when a material doesn't let any light pass through it	placement	the arrangement of objects in a particular order or a particular place
space (in Art)	what lies between, around or within an object.	story-telling	the social and cultural activity of telling stories

What are we learning?

1



- Kara Walker is an African American Artist who loves to tell stories about her ancestry through **silhouette** art
- She earned a degree at the Atlanta College of Art in 1991
- In 1994, she began working on **silhouettes** to explore slavery and other parts of her African ancestry
- She is regarded as among the most prominent and acclaimed Black American Artists working today
- A silhouette is a **dark shape** and **outline** of someone or something visible in **restricted light** against a **brighter background**

2



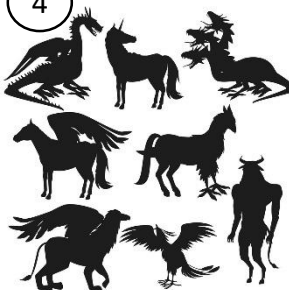
- Like Kara Walker, the **Ancient Greeks** also used **silhouettes** to tell stories
- **Opaque** is when a material doesn't let any light pass through it
- **Backwards forwards sketching** is using backwards and forwards sketching strokes to draw the **outline** of a **shape**. You can lift your hand off the paper when using this sketching **technique**.
- Silhouette sketches do not need any **detail** inside them
- Sketches should not be **intricate** or small so they can be cut out **accurately**

3

- **Space** is one of the 7 **Elements of Art**
- Objects placed higher up in the **picture plane** will seem further away to the viewer's eye than objects placed lower down
- Smaller objects will look as if they are further away than larger objects
- When **cutting**, use the tips of scissors for snips
- To cut out **lines** or **shapes**, use the inside V of the scissors
- Move paper when cutting to ensure **accuracy**



4



- **Planning** and **designing** a piece of art before making it means we can **think** about the **colours**, **materials** and **arrangement** to make it the best it can be
- **Decide** which **images** will be included in the **final piece**
- **Justify** the **size** and **placement** of the images included in the plan
- **Shapes** do not need to be **detailed**

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- Using a **plan** helps when creating a final piece
- **Backwards forwards sketching** can be used to sketch the outline of a silhouette
- **Placement** of the silhouettes will help to create the **illusion** of distance



6



- Explain **choices** made during the process, such as **selection** of colours and **placement** of shapes
- Explain how the artwork is **similar/different** to Kara Walker's work
- Say what worked well and what could be **improved** with **explanations**