

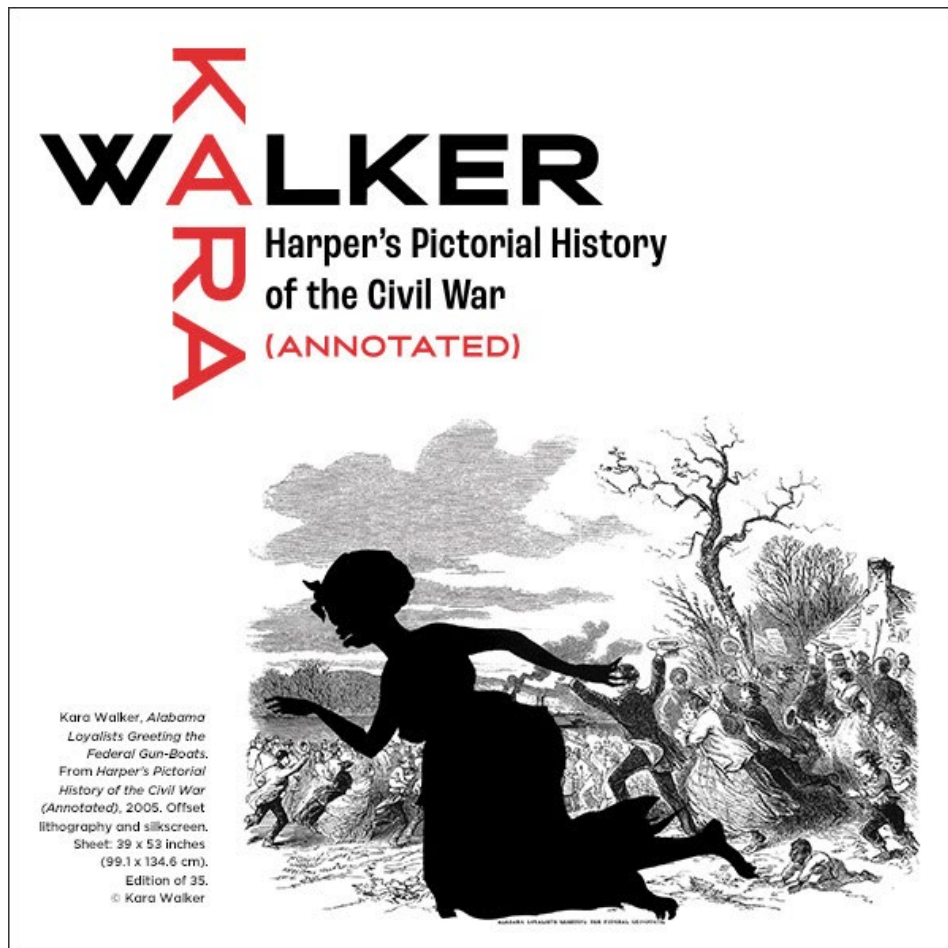
THE  
**FRICK**  
PITTSBURGH  
MUSEUMS AND GARDENS

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**The Frick Pittsburgh to Host Series of Public Programs Alongside Contemporary Art Exhibition *Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)***  
*The exhibition marks an important continuation of the Frick's commitment to reexamine history with a contemporary lens to better understand the present*



**PITTSBURGH** – Visitors to The Frick Pittsburgh will have the opportunity to participate in a series of public programs as part of the 2025 season opening exhibition, [“Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War \(Annotated\)”](#) at the Frick Art Museum. The opening day, March 1, coincides with the first day of Women’s History Month. The exhibition will be on view through May 25, 2025.

The show will be the first time works by Kara Walker will be exhibited in Pittsburgh since the 1999-2000 Carnegie International. Due to the large-scale nature of Kara Walker’s medium, it is rare to see so many of her works in one exhibition. Comprised of 15 large-scale prints, **“Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)”** revisits the historical representations found in the 1866 publication “Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War” and overlays enlargements of woodcut plates with Kara Walker’s silkscreen cutout figures in solid black silhouette. In doing so, Kara Walker brings to light experiences of racism that were often omitted or merely hinted at in traditional historical narratives. Shown with Kara Walker’s series is a group of original “Harper’s Weekly” engravings by 19th-century American realist Winslow Homer (1846-1910), offering opportunities to consider similarities and distinctions between past and present.

“Building on the success of *Gilded, Not Golden*, in which we recontextualize our Gilded Age past at Clayton, the Frick family home, I’m excited to extend this initiative by delving into the Civil War—an era that profoundly shaped the Gilded Age. Kara Walker’s powerful work exemplifies our continued commitment to reexamining history with fresh eyes and sharing untold stories,” said **Amanda Gillen, interim executive director**. “We invite visitors to join us in exploring the complexities of history and how it continues to shape the world we live in today.”

The Frick’s presentation of the exhibition will include four bound copies of “Harper’s Weekly” issues from the years of the Civil War, which were part of the Frick family’s library at Clayton.

Heralded as [“a global contemporary art superstar”](#), Kara Walker is widely considered to be one of the most important living artists today. At the age of 28, she was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation “Genius” grant, becoming the second youngest recipient ever. In 2007, Kara Walker was named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, Artists and Entertainers, stating, “Few have managed to capture the collision between past and present, between histories and horror stories, between sexuality and shame, between skin and meat, as powerfully and provocatively as Kara Walker.”

“Kara Walker is one of the most thought-provoking artists of her generation, and this exhibition is a compelling demonstration of how contemporary artists can serve as witnesses to the past and present,” said **Dawn R. Brean, chief curator and director of collections**. “She uses the silhouette—a traditionally genteel art form—in ways that upend viewers’ expectations. Her imaginative tableaux raise questions about power, perception, how memory is shaped and how history continues to shape us.”

The exhibition will also feature contributions from 15 guest labelists. Contributors include historians, artists, writers, students, and others, who are working with the Frick to offer their perspectives on the work of Kara Walker and Winslow Homer. These guest contributions will be included in the exhibition alongside the interpretive texts.

## About the Exhibition

This exhibition pairs Walker's series "Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)" with original Harper's engravings of the Civil War by Winslow Homer, drawn from the New Britain Museum of American Art's collection. The juxtaposition of these works highlights the distinctions between historical and contemporary perspectives on pivotal American events. Adding a unique dimension to the exhibition is the Frick's own collection, which includes bound copies of the "Harper's Weekly" Civil War issues, owned by the Frick family. This connection offers visitors an opportunity to explore the themes of the exhibition in relation to the Gilded Age and its enduring legacy.

Please note: "Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)" contains sensitive imagery and descriptive content related to instances of racially motivated violence in the Civil War South.

There will be a reflection space as part of the exhibition, and images of the exhibition will be available at the Grable Visitor Center for visitors interested in previewing the show's content before entering.

## "Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)" Programs

**Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.**

### **Black Art: In the Absence of Light Film Screening**

In advance of the upcoming exhibition, "Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)", join us for a screening of "Black Art: In the Absence of Light" (2021). Using the groundbreaking exhibition "Two Centuries of Black American Art" that opened at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1976 as a departure point, this documentary sheds light on the enduring impact of the exhibition on some of the foremost Black artists in the 21st century and showcases the depth and diversity of Black artists' practices. In doing so, this film highlights the key roles specific Black artists, including Kara Walker, institutions, and collectors continue to play in shaping American art and culture and promoting Black art. \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$5 students. Tickets are available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org).

**Saturday, March 1 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Opening Day with Special Programs and Activities**

Featuring a special lecture with Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw, author of "Seeing the Unspeakable: The Art of Kara Walker", the opening day of this milestone exhibition will be celebrated with gallery talks, a creative collage altered books activity, and live music. More information is at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org).

Members are invited to visit with early access starting at 9:00 a.m. and can enjoy lite bites in the Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Opening Day Programs and Activities are as follows:

**Saturday, March 1**

**Special Lecture with Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw | “Kara Walker, Winslow Homer, Blackness, & AI”**

The keynote lecture considers the ongoing engagement with "Harper's Weekly" illustrations made by Winslow Homer and other artists during the Civil War, by contemporary artists, like Kara Walker, who seek to reframe them, and the everyday art lovers who search for historical images of African Americans to add to their walls. What insight can these contested historic images give us into the desires of the contemporary art market at a time when artificial intelligence is radically reshaping the creation and consumption of art?

A renowned scholar of Kara Walker's work, Dr. Shaw's research focuses on portraiture and issues of representation, with an emphasis on the construction of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the American context. She has previously served on the faculty of Harvard University and as the Director of Research, Publications, and Scholarly Programs at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. She is the author of "Seeing the Unspeakable: The Art of Kara Walker" (2004) and "The Art of Remembering: Essays on African American Art and History" (2024). [Free with registration at TheFrickPittsburgh.org](https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org).

**Saturday, March 1 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Creative Collage Altered Books Activity**

Explore beloved children's books, historical texts, and popular novels to see them in a whole new light. Who's missing? Who's misrepresented? Reimagine these stories by adding your own perspective through drawing and writing.

**Saturday, March 1 at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**  
**In-Gallery Talks**

Engage with the stories behind the art in a 15-minute talk in the galleries. At 11:30 a.m., Lauryn Smith, PhD, assistant curator, will delve into the "Harper's Weekly" illustrations by Winslow Homer. At 12:30 p.m., Dawn R. Brean, chief curator & director of collections, will explore the evocative art of the silhouette. Talks take place in the galleries, and a limited number of stools will be available for seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Saturday, March 1 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Special Member Access and Breakfast**

Members are invited to have early access to the exhibition starting at 9:00 a.m. and enjoy lite bites and an exclusive reflection activity in the Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Individual memberships are just \$55 and family memberships are \$75. Discounted membership prices for ADA, Seniors, and Students are also available. Information about memberships is available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org/membership](https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/membership).

**Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays starting March 5 at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.**  
**Gallery Conversations in [Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War \(Annotated\)](#)**

Join a gallery facilitator for a close-looking exploration of selected works in “Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)”. Gallery facilitators will gather interested participants within the exhibition galleries. Talks run approximately 20 minutes. Attendance is free with exhibition admission. More information is available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**Saturday, March 29 at 4:00 p.m.**

**[Echoes: An Evening of Music with KEA](#)**

A stirring performance inspired by “Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)”, KEA—an acclaimed artist celebrated for her soulful voice, evocative storytelling, and magnetic stage presence—weaves together music, poetry, and visual elements to reflect on the legacy of racial history in America. Joined by her talented duo of musicians on drums and guitar, the program features iconic African-American songs, original verse, and rhythmic percussion, bridging past and present in a profound meditation on resilience, heritage, and justice. \$35 members, \$50 non-members, \$15 students. Ticket prices includes exhibition admission, a glass of wine (21+), and a post-performance meet-and-greet with the musicians. Advance registration and pre-payment is required. Tickets are available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**Wednesday, April 16 and Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

**[Guided Evening Tour of \*Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War \(Annotated\)\*](#)**

Spend an evening in “Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)” for an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition exploring the work of one of the most important artists of our time. Tours run one hour. Tickets must be purchased in advance. \$25 members, \$35 non-members, \$15 students. Tickets are available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

**[Book Talk: Dr. Edda Fields-Black on Harriet Tubman and the Combahee River Raid](#)**

Join Dr. Edda Fields-Black for an examination of untold stories and reclaimed histories through her most recent book, "COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid and Black Freedom during the Civil War". COMBEE explores Harriet Tubman’s often-overlooked role in the largest slave rebellion in US history that resulted in the liberation of 756 people from bondage on seven rice plantations. Through previously unexamined sources, Dr. Fields-Black—herself a descendent of a soldier who fought in the raid—brings to life the Combahee River Raid and the untold stories of those freed, their resilience, and the lasting impact of Tubman’s heroism.

Following the book talk, enjoy a light reception and book signing with the author as well as access to "Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)". Ticket prices include exhibition admission; advanced registration is required. \$25 members, \$35 non-members, \$15 students. Tickets are available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black is a Professor in the Department of History and the Director of the Dietrich College Humanities Center at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

**[Guest Label Writers in Conversation](#)**

You're invited to a lively and interactive evening where guest labelists share the insights behind the Kara Walker works that inspired their labels. Engage in round-robin conversations and gain fresh perspectives on the art through their unique interpretations. It's a rare chance to experience the art in an entirely new way! \$25 members, \$35 non-members, \$15 students. Tickets are available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**Saturday, May 17 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

### ***Hill Dance Academy Theatre Performance on Remake Learning Day***

Youth dancers from Hill Dance Academy Theatre will bring silhouettes and ideas from the exhibition to life to celebrate the end of the Kara Walker exhibition. More details to be announced.

This performance will be part of our Remake Learning Day, an annual day of artmaking, historical exploration, and community programs. Remake Learning Day activities are free and open to all.

### **Guest Contributors**

The exhibition will also feature the contributions of guest labelists from the Pittsburgh community. Guest contributors as of January 30 include:

- Amanda Boston, Assistant Professor, Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- Tara Fay Coleman, Mother, Conceptual Artist, Curator, Writer, and Arts Worker
- Madeline Gent, Executive Director, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh
- Jasmine Green, Artist
- Jim Griffin, Director of Equity and Community Engagement, University of Pittsburgh
- Michael Kraus, Curator, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum
- Bryanna McDaniels, MPH, Reproductive Health Advocate, Strategist, Facilitator, and Innovator
- Shaun Myers, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh
- Alaina E. Roberts, Associate Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh
- Kirk Savage, William S. Dietrich II Professor, History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh
- Haifa Subay, Artist
- Heather White, Artist and Director of Learning, The Andy Warhol Museum
- Quaishawn Whitlock, Artist and Educator
- Imin Yeh, Associate Professor of Art and Director of Foundational Studies, Carnegie Mellon University

### **Tickets**

Members visit free. General admission is \$15. Seniors 65+, Military and Veterans, Adults with Disabilities, and Teachers admission is \$13. Student admission is \$10, and youth 17 and under admission is \$5. Museums for all (EBT card holders) admission is \$1. Tickets are available for purchase at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org), by calling 412-371-0600, and in person at the Grable Visitor Center.



Group admission of \$13 per person is available for groups of 10 people or more. To reserve group admission tickets, email [Education@thefrickpittsburgh.org](mailto:Education@thefrickpittsburgh.org).

## Exhibition Organization

The touring presentation of "Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)" is organized by The Museum Box. The exhibition was curated by Lisa Hayes Williams, associate curator at the New Britain Museum of American Art, where the show debuted in 2020.

The Frick's presentation is supported by Nancy D. Washington.

## About Kara Walker

New York-based artist Kara Walker is best known for her candid investigation of race, gender, sexuality, and violence through silhouetted figures that have appeared in numerous exhibitions worldwide.

Born in Stockton, California in 1969, Walker was raised in Atlanta, Georgia from the age of 13. She studied at the Atlanta College of Art (BFA, 1991) and the Rhode Island School of Design (MFA, 1994). She is the recipient of many awards, notably the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Achievement Award in 1997, which she received at just 28, making her the second youngest recipient in the award's history, as well as the United States Artists Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship in 2008. In 2012, Walker became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2015, she was named the Tepper Chair in Visual Arts at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

Walker's work can be found in museums and public collections throughout the United States and Europe including The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Tate Gallery, London; the Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo (MAXXI), Rome; and Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt.

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## About The Frick Pittsburgh

The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore collections of fine and decorative arts, vehicles, historic objects, and buildings – including Clayton, the Frick family home and only intact Gilded Age mansion remaining from Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row – left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Alongside these treasures, the Frick offers an active schedule of temporary exhibitions and programs on our 10-acre garden campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**For additional information or images, please contact Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications, at [Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org) or 412-342-4075.**