

DuSable Museum of African American History



Installation view, *Kara Walker: Presenting Negro Scenes Drawn Upon My Passage through the South and Reconfigured for the Benefit of Enlightened Audiences Wherever Such May Be Found, By Myself, Missus K.E.B. Walker, Colored, 1997*, Cut paper on wall, Collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and *Cauleen Smith, The Right Time, Before and After, 2017*, Site-specific installation, Lee filter film gels, Architecture, and Sunlight, at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 2021.

Photo by Martin Giese, DuSable Museum of African American History

The DuSable Museum of African American History is the first non-profit museum dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation, study and the dissemination of the history and culture of Africans and African Americans.

Plan your visit

Reservations are encouraged to visit the DuSable Museum. Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm. [Learn more and plan your visit.](#)

Kara Walker: Presenting Negro Scenes Drawn Upon My Passage through the South and Reconfigured for the Benefit of Enlightened Audiences Wherever Such May Be Found, By Myself, Missus K.E.B. Walker, Colored
July 17–October 16, 2021

Within its Roundhouse exhibition space, the DuSable presents a signature black silhouette installation from [Kara Walker](#) as part of *Toward Common Cause*.

Across three decades of making artworks of black cut-out figures, Walker has turned the harm of racism upon itself by refusing to veil the history of slavery in shame or euphemism. Underscoring racism, stereotypes, and bodily desire as black-and-white issues, this installation presents antebellum characters in the style of black paper portraiture, a genre whose use from the mid-17th century through the late 19th century not only overlapped with the history of slavery but also perpetuated extremely problematic stereotypes about Black people. Offered up for reconsideration in our time, these vignettes confront us with powerful questions of how to deal with our nation’s painful past.

Now making a historic return to Chicago’s South Side, this

installation was first presented in 1997 at the nearby Renaissance Society.

[Make a reservation to visit the DuSable Museum](#)

About

In 1961, with a few dedicated colleagues and a dream, the artist/educator/writer/activist Margaret Taylor Burroughs established our nation's first independent museum celebrating Black culture. The Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art was inaugurated that very year in the Burroughs' home on Chicago's iconic South Side. Burroughs was proud that the Museum was "the only one that grew out of the indigenous Black community."

At its 60th anniversary, the Museum—since named to honor Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the Haitian-born founder of Chicago—has welcomed millions of visitors to its home in Chicago's historic Washington Park to experience its innovative and timely exhibitions and powerful and transformative educational programs, which together place the African American narrative firmly within the broader context of U.S. history. The DuSable is a convener; a point of connection; and a place where difficult conversations lead to reconciliation and renewal. And, as a beacon of strength and a refuge of reason, the Museum is a vital part of a socially equitable reconciliation of our nation's historic divisions.

Address

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