

# Kara Walker

A Silhouette Project: Creating Tension and Communicating Ideas in Visual Form



*Making things in shadow form suggests to the viewer, “You can look at me this way, but perhaps you’ll see something else.” It’s a very passive kind of gesture, but within that I generally hope to create something tense, and recognition of something very specific and very pointed about the viewer’s relationship with the piece and the piece’s relationship with me and my relationship with the viewer. – Kara Walker*

*You will be working as a group for this assignment. As a class, you will be creating an installation. Within that installation, your group will be responsible for the silhouette of one person or a pair of persons, with or without props.*

*Your challenge is to visually communicate a single issue facing adolescents in today’s society through the creation of a silhouette. To be effective, your silhouette must possess a sense of **tension**. This might be accomplished in your ideas, placement, or uneasiness of your viewer.*

*Your group will work alone on your individual piece, yet your class will be assigned one wall in the hallway. Talk with the other groups in your class. How will you arrange your figures? Will there be a sense of interaction? Can you use a permanent fixture on your assigned wall to enhance your piece?*

*As a group, take the last few minutes of class to think of a single issue in which you would like to explore. This theme cannot be the same as another group in your class. Now, think about how you will depict this issue. What body position will your figures need to be in? Will you need props? If you have more than one figure, how will the two be interacting?*

*Tomorrow you will be given a light projector and black “sticker paper” in which to trace your figures. What other supplies will you need to bring in to create your piece in class? Props? Special clothing? Who will be “models”, the “tracers”, and the “cutters”? Make sure you are prepared!*

