



Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

Session no. 20 (Spring Term):

Silhouettes inspired by Kara Walker

Materials needed:

Pencil, rubber, sharpener
White paper to draw on (any size you like to work on and whatever you have at hand) – ideally several sheets

Paper in another colour than white. This can be even be newspaper if it is all that is to hand but ideally black or very strong coloured paper for the contrast.

Scissors

Glue Stick

Introduction: Kara Elizabeth Walker (born November 26, 1969) is an American contemporary painter, silhouettist, print-maker, installation artist, filmmaker, and professor who explores many areas including race, gender, violence, and identity in her work. She is best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes. Her silhouettes tell stories. Make a narrative with your own silhouettes.



Activity 1 – Think about what you might want to show in your story. How many characters (people or animals) might you want to have in your scene? Do some initial sketches to work out what you would like to show, what story you would like to tell.

Activity 2 – Develop your sketches into silhouettes that make it obvious what is happening. Do these developed drawings on black or contrasting paper so that they will show up. You might need to exaggerate their gestures or add elements to make it clear. The tricky thing about having only a silhouette to show what is happening you need to rely on a very clear outline rather than any detail that might be shown within the drawing.

Activity 3 – Cut out your silhouettes with care! The more accurate and careful the cutting out the better the final result will be so take your time.

Activity 4 – Keep experimenting with the arrangement of your figures and when you are happy with the story and drama they tell stick them down to complete.