An art confronted with history

With Kara Walker

Her life

Kara Walker is an afro American plastic artist, she was born in California in 1969. Her father was an art teacher, her family has never been poor, nevertheless she was confronted to racism in her teenage years. She got her BFA from Atlanta College of Art in 1991 and her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1994. At that moment, she took part in the exhibition Drawing Center of New York, which made her more popular thanks to her famous installation called

“Gone, a History of a Civil War as Its Occurred

Between the Dusky Thighs of One Young

Negress and Her Heart (1994)”. She has been

continuing to design artist installations,

drawings, watercolours, and wall paintings,

 principally dedicated to slaves’ history.



The causes she fights for…

Since she was young, she fought against inequality between people. She is interested in racial discrimination, gender equality and physical violence. Her art has been focussing on equality between black and white people, on the relationships between masters and slaves before the American Civil War, and the segregation and hyper sexualisation of black women.

How is she fighting ?

She is fighting with her art. She realizes monumental installations, mainly black paper silhouette collage and shadow puppet as well as animation movies. For instance, she mentioned the period before the American Civil War throughout violent racial scenes. She uses black silhouettes to tell us a story, removing all color in order to demonstrate that even everything is in black, we can have racial prejudices linked to the appearance and behavior of the persons on the scene. Beyond this example, she stages scandalous and provocative sketches on racism, sexuality and violence in the world. To conclude, her art permits her to transmit messages and reach the population.