

**ONE WALL, ONE WORK:**

Kara Walker

February 2014 - May 2014

Barbara Krakow Gallery is well into its third year of the One Wall One Work series. The latest project is Kara Walker's 1998 wall piece, Pastoral.

Pastoral is a large silhouette painted in black on a white wall. The sharp and detailed outlines reference Walker's iconic cut-outs. The imagery is of a seated female figure, holding a tool in her hand and carrying a rather large sheep. While on close inspection, the two figures can be separated in one's mind, it is also important to recognize the mask-like face that the sheep and figure combine to create.

Paul Edmunds has described the scene by saying that "it is not clear whether the woman is empowered or oppressed by the animal on her back. Walker's work is controversial in that it examines the rather uncomfortable, sexually-charged relationships between masters and slaves. Just as the image is ambivalent, so too is the means used in creating it. Convex and concave black and white shapes vie for the roles of ground and figure, neither conveying volume more successfully than the other. The traditionally white sheep and conventionally black slave are rendered equal by their colorless tone."

**BARBARA**

**KRAKOW GALLERY**