

Basic Detail Report



Title

Freedom: A Fable

Artist

Kara Elizabeth Walker, Marketing Techniques, Inc.,
Carlsbad, CA, 1997 (Peter Norton), laser cutting:
Lasercraft, Inc., Santa Rosa, CA print: Typecraft, Inc.,
Pasadena type design: Timothy Silverlake, Valencia, CA,
Kevin Willis and Brian Wilson, type designers, David Eisen

Date

1997

Dimensions

box: 12 7/16 x 11 1/2 x 1 15/16 in. (316 x 292 x 49mm) book: 9 7/16 x 8 3/8 x 7/8 in. (239 x 213 x 23mm)
page: 9 x 7 7/8 in. (228 x 200mm) card: 5 x 7 in. (127 x 178mm)

Medium

Original paper designs: laser-cut black paper silhouettes, folded as pop-up elements Text: letterpress in
black and white (typefaces: Ransom Group Antique, Attic Antique) Paper: white wove Classic Crest Cover;
black wove Curtis Tuscan Antique Cover

Classifications

Books

Credit Line

Gift of David W. Steadman in honor of the Peter Norton Family

Object number

2000.33

Exhibition History

Toledo Museum of Art, *TMA New Acquisitions in Graphic Arts*, December 21, 2001-March 30, 2002.

Toledo Museum of Art, *PICTURE ID: Contemporary African American Works on Paper*, March 14-June 14,
2020.

Collections

Works on Paper

Label Text

Freedom: A Fable is the first work by Kara Walker in book format. It was inspired by literary memoirs of former slaves or novels like *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852). Similar to how she creates her large-scale murals, Walker here employs black paper silhouettes to narrate the history of American slavery in an ironic and provocative manner. Her paper cut-outs recall popular 19th-century portrait silhouettes, while at the same time subverting their typical function. In Walker's version, the demeaning postures and exaggerated features of her figures call attention to negative stereotypes of African Americans often found in minstrel

shows, novels, and art of the 19th and early 20th centuries and reveal the corrosive power of stereotypes and prejudice.

Not On View