

KARA WALKER DRAWINGS

March 5-14 / September 8-30, 2020



Among the most acclaimed artists working in the United States, Walker utilizes a diverse range of artistic practices to explore issues of race, gender, sexuality, and violence. Although she's best known for her cut paper silhouette wall installations and monumental sculptural works, drawing remains the core of Walker's artistic practice. Previously kept within her private archive, these works on paper reveal the scope of Walker's process, from sketches, studies, and collages, to texts and "dream journals." Materials such as watercolor, graphite, and ink give the drawings a sense of spontaneity and immediacy. To view these works on paper is to realize the intimacy and intensity of Walker's vision in creating her subjects, speaking back to history and thus simultaneously reforming it within the present. The figures within Walker's drawings insist upon themselves as the protagonists of a new narrative, revealed to us through bodies and words and unspeakable acts.

In the 38 drawings of *The Gross Clinician: Pater Gravidam* (2018), a centerpiece of the exhibition, history is all-consuming; the title refers to Thomas Eakins 1875 painting, *The Gross Clinic*, which depicts the public operation on a woman by Dr. Samuel Gross. Swathes of graphite, sumi ink, and gouache flesh out scenes of bodily and psychological violence. The context within each drawing is not always clear; some figures are suspended against blank backgrounds, or placed against ruinous landscapes, barren fields and shadowed mountains. While some drawings explicitly depict acts of medical brutality, reflecting the series' namesake, others invoke a multitude of traumas and symbols, including colonial-era "Yankees," the snake in the Garden of Eden, palm trees, and police in full riot gear. *The Gross Clinician: Pater Gravidam* finds its genesis within Walker's new mythology; chaotic, unholy, and unending.

Born in Stockton, California in 1969, Kara Walker was raised in Atlanta, Georgia from the age of 13. She studied at the Atlanta College of Art (BFA, 1991) and the Rhode Island School of Design (MFA, 1994). She is the recipient of many awards, notably the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Achievement Award in 1997 and the United States Artists, Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship in 2008. Walker is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (elected 2012) and American Philosophical Society (elected 2018), and was named an Honorary Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts, London in 2019. She lives and works in New York.

Walker's work has been acquired by prominent museums and public collections throughout the United States and Europe, including the Kunstmuseum Basel's Kupferstichkabinett (Department of Prints and Drawings); the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Tate Gallery, London; the Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo (MAXXI), Rome; and the Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt.

Walker was selected by the Tate Modern for the 2019 Hyundai Commission. She responded with a large-scale public sculpture in the form of a four-tiered fountain entitled *Fons Americanus*. Directly alluding to the Victoria Memorial at Buckingham Palace, Walker's sculpture stands as a "countermemorial," a playful yet incisive subversion of such monuments' original public function within the context of European imperialist projects. Surrounded by two pools of water as a disaster at sea, the work represents a counter-narrative to the Western pride of empire-building, a mythologized origin story built upon the violent and tragic foundations of our collective history. *Fons Americanus* will be on view at the Tate Modern Turbine Hall through November 8.



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Untitled, 2000 Cut paper collage 12 x 18 inches (30.5 x 45.7 cm)

Untitled, 2002-04
Watercolor, ink, graphite, collage, and cut paper on paper
From suite of 24 works on paper: 18.125 x 12.125 inches (46 x 30.8 cm)





Imposter Syndrome, 2020 Charcoal on paper 82.75 x 72 inches (210.2 x 182.9 cm)





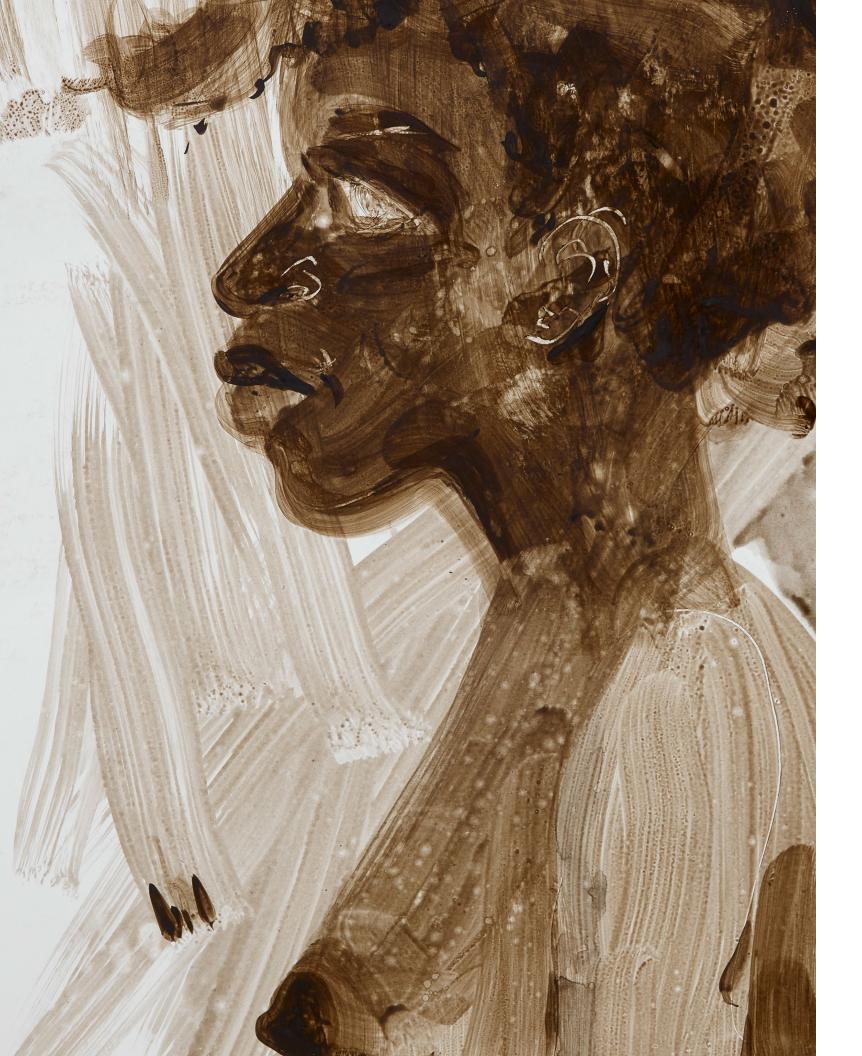
Untitled, no date
Pastel on paper
12.25 x 12.125 inches (31.1 x 30.8 cm)





(Fons Americanus archive), 2019 Charcoal and graphite on paper 91.25 x 72 inches (231.8 x 182.9 cm)







Untitled, 2008 Ink on paper 28 x 22 inches (71.1 x 55.9 cm)









BLACK ARTISTS I ASPIRE TO BE LESS LIKE:

Foppish. Mäive. Bitter. Angry. Narcissistic. Vain. Paramoid. Undeserving. Broke. Forgotten. CRASSLY COMMERCIAL.

TEKEN Advantage of Short-lived









SHE SMIRKS OUTLOUD your peaceful protest. She openly shirks her ordained duty, as blackwomman, as progenitor, as keepr of flame of bearer of light, of model citizen of holder of higher standard. moral order. Nurse WHETNURSE TO AN UNRULY REPUBLIC.

Henry Miller's Nurse Shark. Blackwomman toothy grinned shirker of all duty not her own. I mind my own, dont care who gethurt. Mothers motherfucker. she remains silent on the issue. children cry out for justice, refugees sex asylum. Fathers ply for approval, husbands all.

eyes avert, gazelandz abstractedly at apoint inhe middle distance, soft focus lips zip shut. body slackens, imperceptibly. seeming meek, dumb. but its a calculated turn away from your hunger, your need. to make anything out of

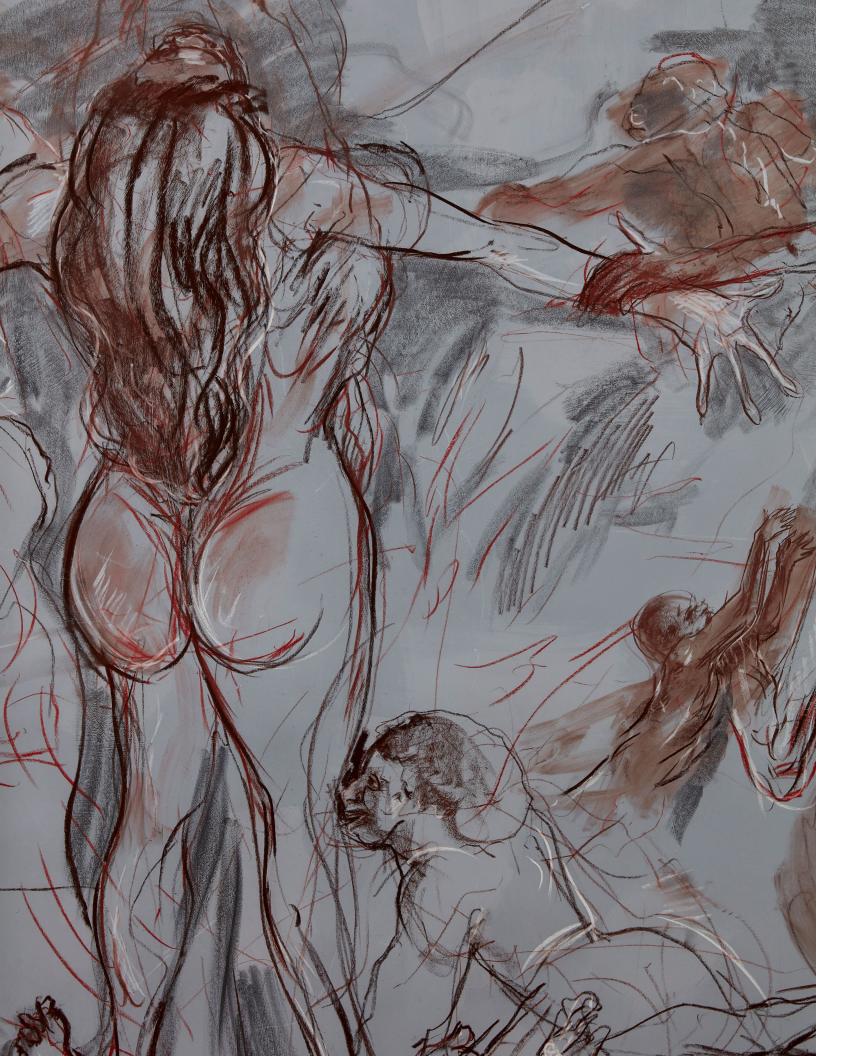




ximx mingled with giggles, toe tickles, EATALISM. PATHOS. ALAM BELLS. NOMORETEARS.

shots fired, peacetime protest. riot police. tear gas, stampede justice. pining for the golden days, the eden passed over, her past innocence. her, not never not knowing. her mothers silence on he issue. her silence, her eyes turned away, her non speaking on the matters of life or death on hand that







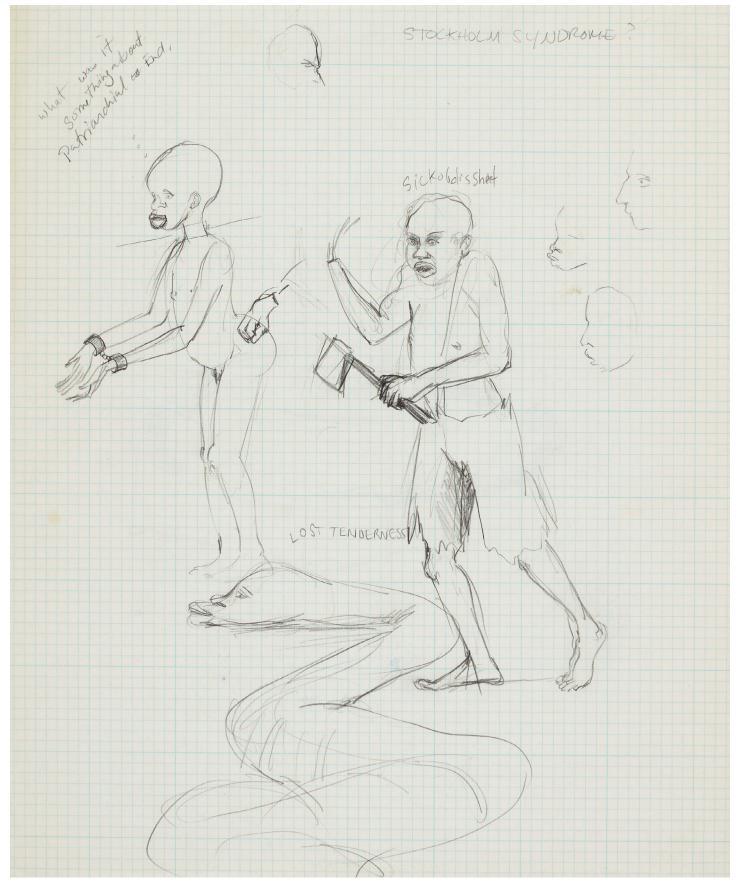










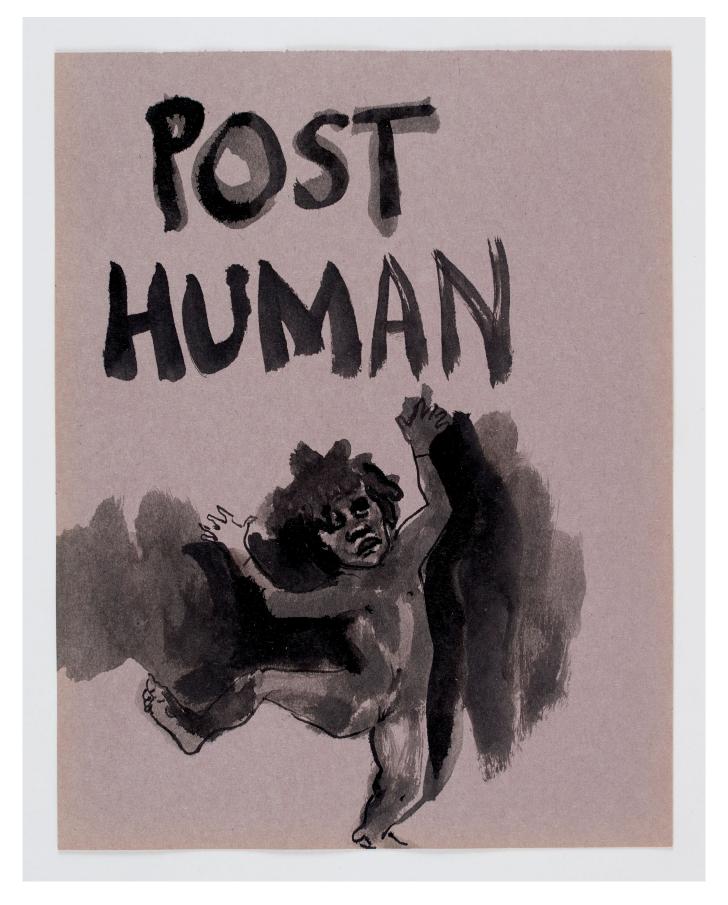


Notebooks 2019, 2019
Collage, ink, marker, photocopy, tape, stickers, gouache, watercolor, graphite, and colored pencil on paper
Suite of 36 works: 10.875 x 8.875 inches (27.6 x 22.5 cm) each



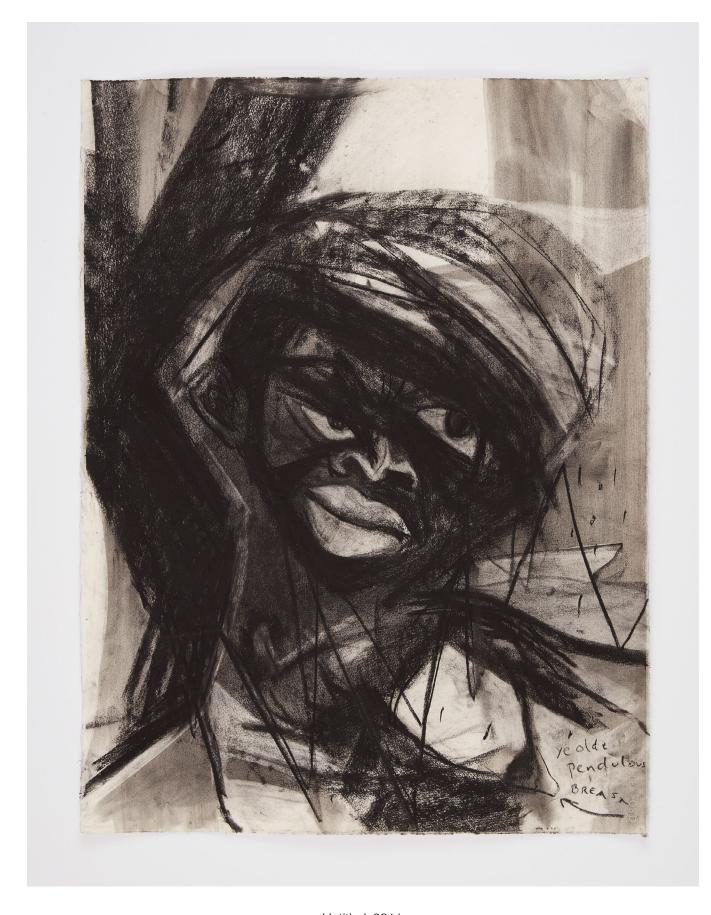




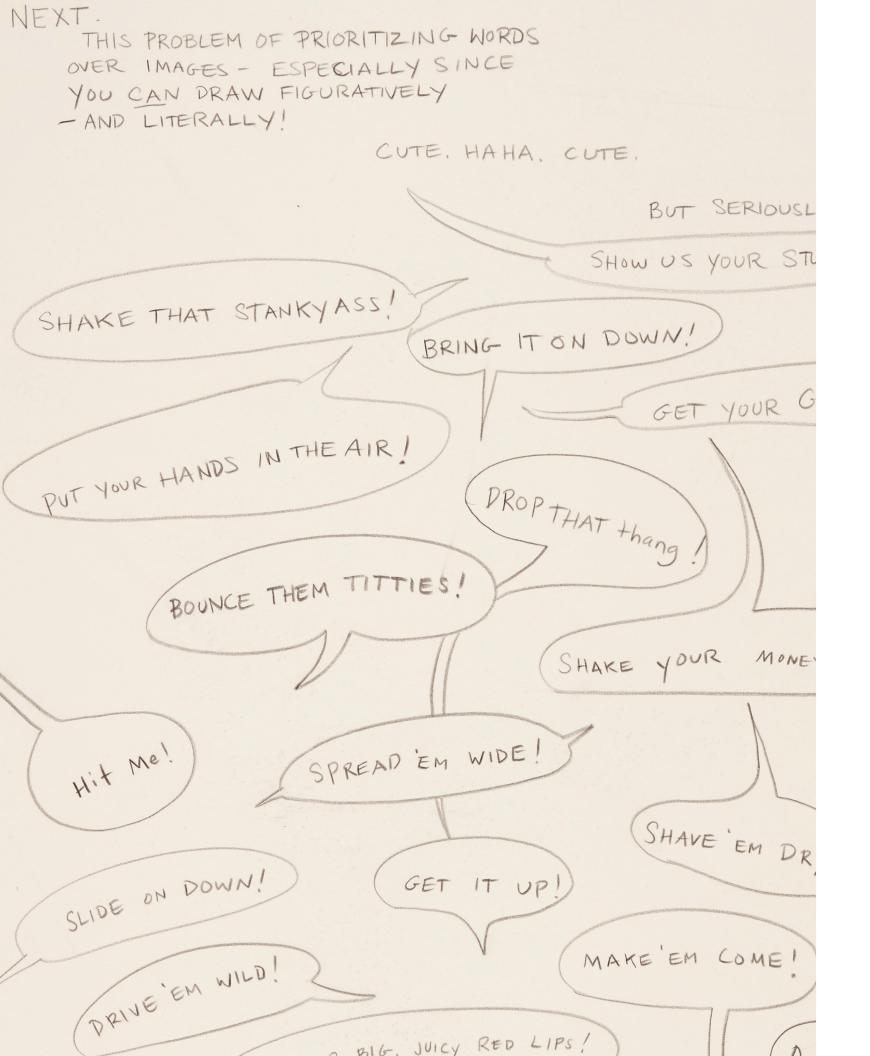


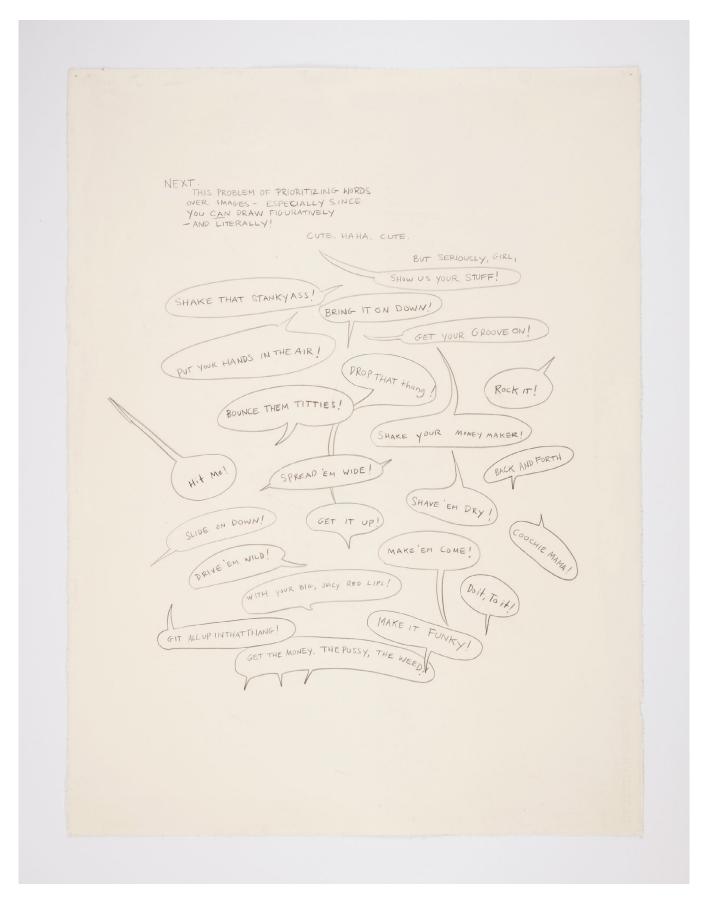
Untitled, 2019
Ink, watercolor, gouache, and collage on paper
Suite of 44 works on paper: 11 x 8.5 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm) each





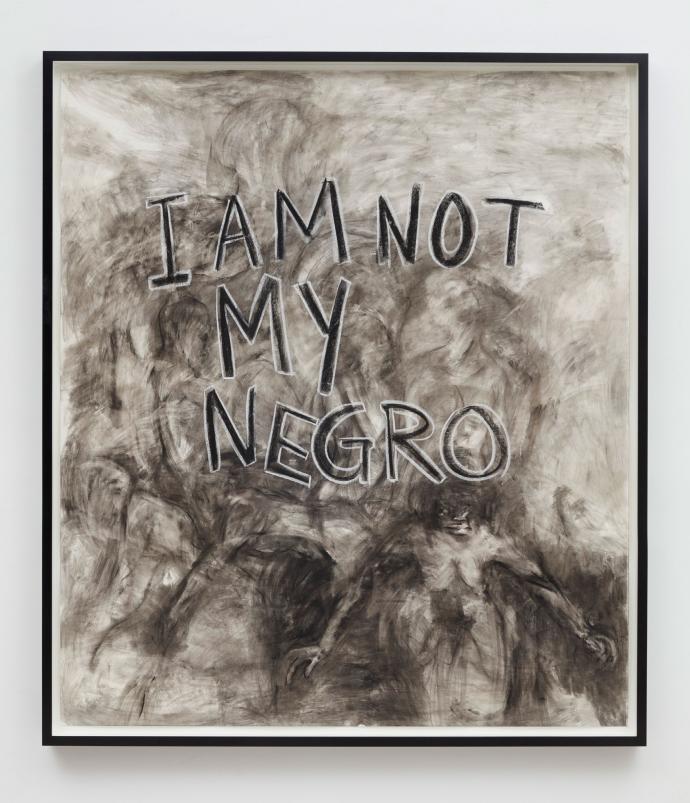
Untitled, 2011 Charcoal on paper Suite of 7: 22.5 x 30 inches (57.2 x 76.2 cm)





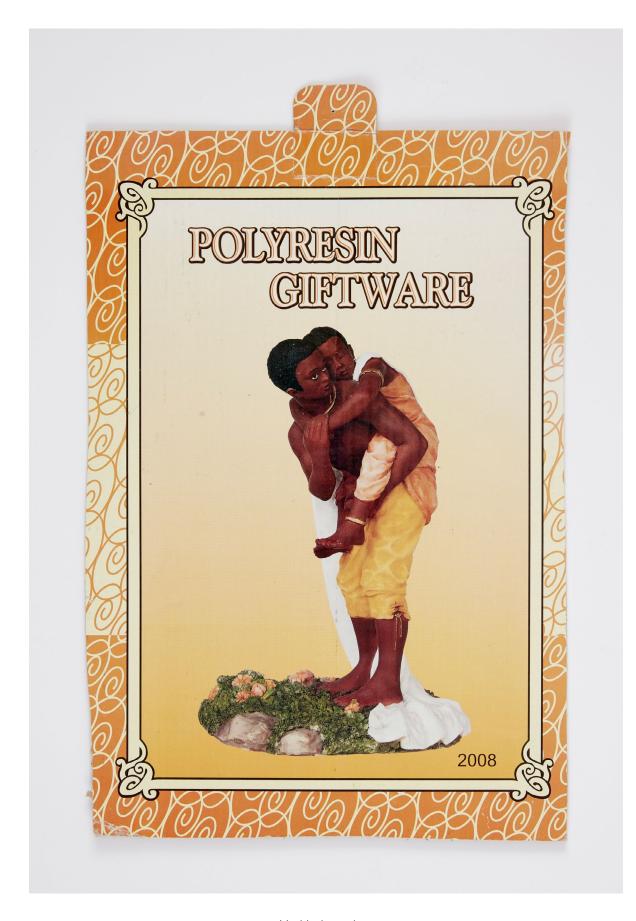
Untitled, 2011
Graphite on paper
30 x 22.5 inches (76.2 x 57.2 cm)





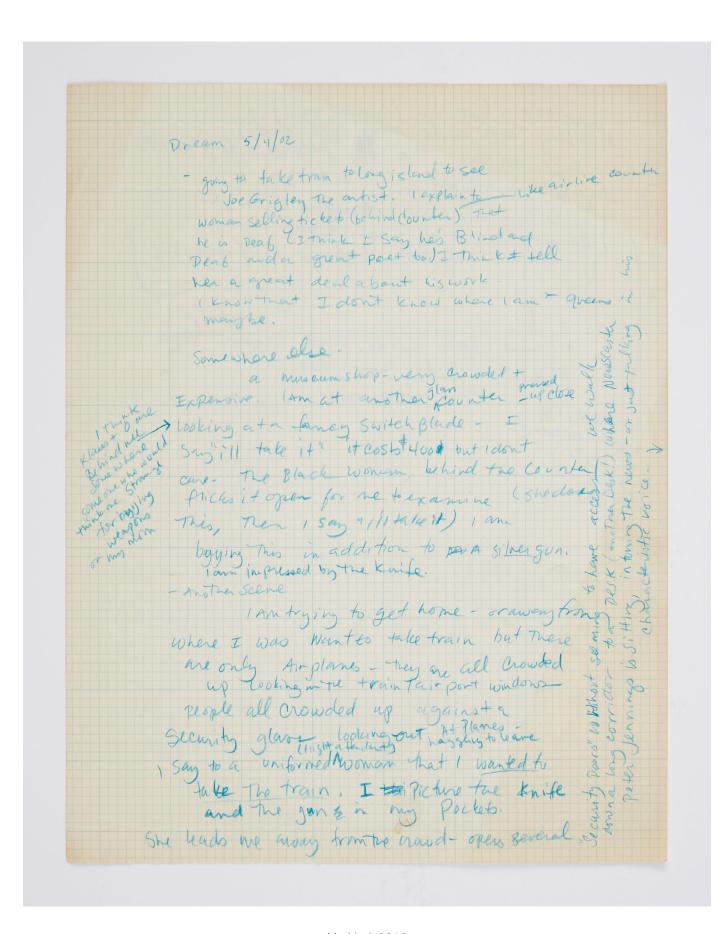
I Am Not My Negro, 2020 Charcoal and pastel on paper 83.25 x 72 inches (211.5 x 182.9 cm)

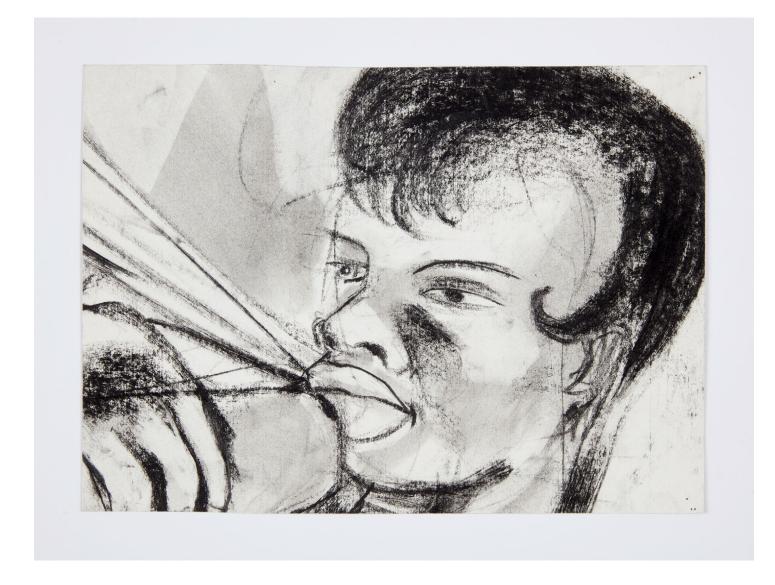






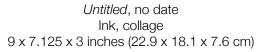
Untitled, no date
Found object, printing on cardboard
14.125 x 9 inches (35.9 x 22.9 cm)

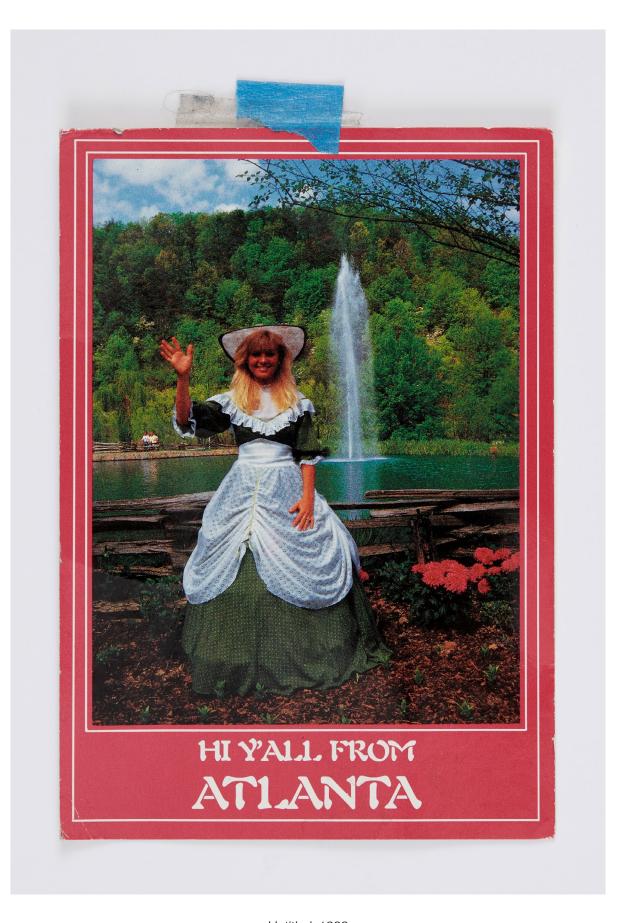




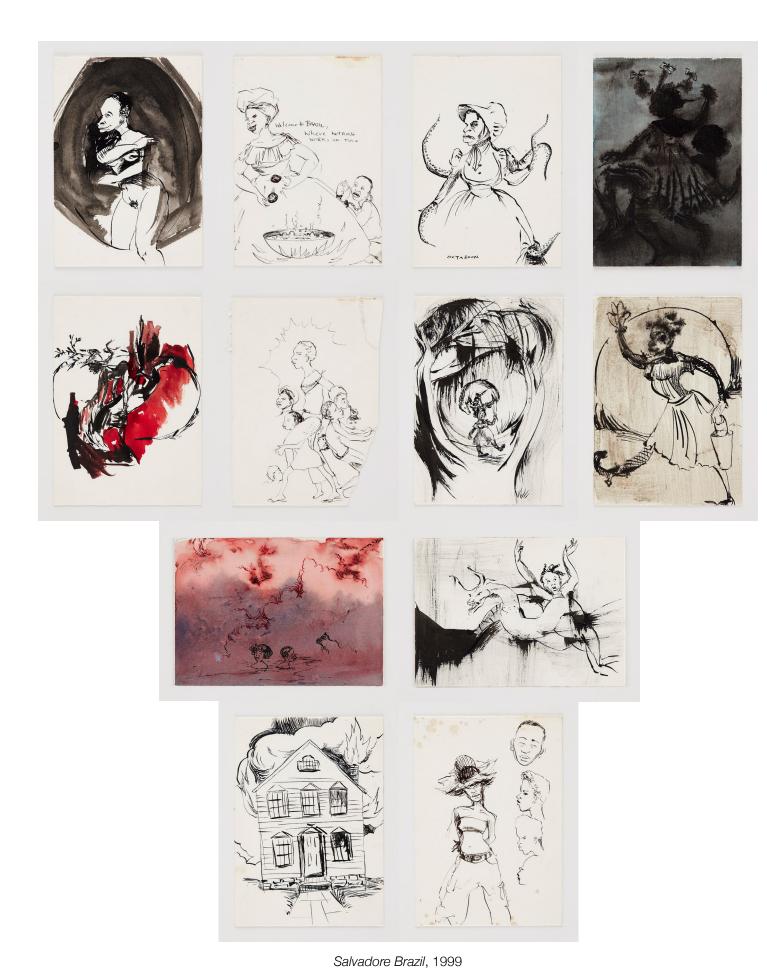
Untitled, 2016
Ink, watercolor, graphite, gouache, pastel, collage
Suite of 12 works; dimensions variable







Untitled, 1992 Ink on postcard 5.875 x 4.125 inches (14.9 x 10.5 cm)

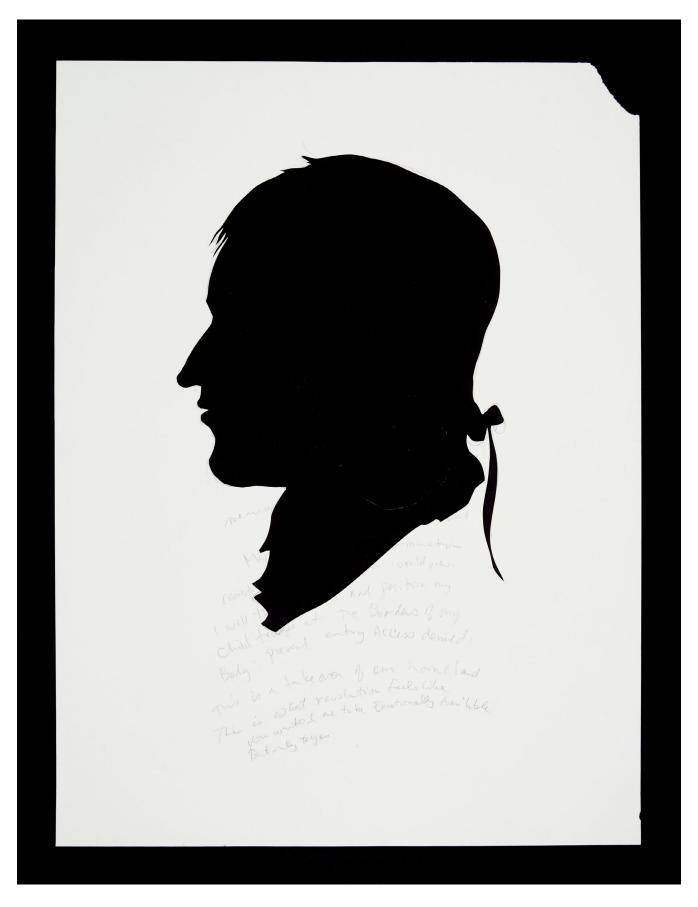




Watercolor and ink on paper
From suite of 12 works on paper: 5.75 x 4.125 inches (14.6 x 10.5 cm) each



Untitled, 1997
Watercolor and collage on paper
23.75 x 12.25 inches (60.3 x 31.1 cm)



Untitled, no date
Cut paper
25.75 x 19 inches (65.4 x 48.3 cm)









But by then it Will not Matter if She lives or dies

of course it's romantic, courtly love between apparer equals. his imperial profile her regal bearing One Nigger + One Jew . Some for

Book

(give the People What they HONEY CUNT)

See: mass murder, genocide, See: Striptease, Pole DANCER Or: INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS

These White fucks always
hooting and hollering to have me
Validate their diseases with Black
Deplar cottone. I reply: I am only a
ligyid Piginard on a Solid ground, I canso
oley Your command. Hear This!
I often share at the High round asses
of the Young men whose baggy Ponts
have Slipped deliciously clown. I stare
at everytime.

This Disshwiled African-American Woman, overweight, yes. Well, She Was Wearing this loss top, and you could be her, you know and her, gostleman from They give me want and done
They give me want and done
They are to proceed the may had
worked age three allowed the may had
worked age three allowed by them had of
which and even all think by best unfor-

Hollow Pathetic Women who Risk All for love and parties. Live for today. The promise of freedom in an afterlife is Sunday's news. Reality to Curdied in her Mouth on Saturday eve.

Most Black Women Will force you to Avert your gaze. Meeting it with a hard state which contains generations of Corporeal abjection.

Mostly Black Women in this country are painted Whores with a mean Streak
the rest are sainted



But call it Blues if you must.

Do you perpetuate tire by Denying our Right to When it is bodics who want to be Seen?

innocence just prior to its The look in her childs eyes before you stick it to her Untouched Pussy She will always do your bidding until She finds your flaw

Mostly Black Women Suffer Mostly Black Women suffer an ancient curve called Nigger which plays a major role in uproofing families and damning Souls to perpetuate hell on earth. Every black women in Congo has been violently raped such that it has become normalised. Many black children will confuse murder for love. One of those negro Wraiths
Who havnt the street with No reva
at having lived so long. Woman with
headscart to at least disjuise the tuffed, thinning hair. Sits on a Stoop Waiting, renders Salficonic.

Country Women and girls standing in the experient heat. Blazing Sun determines the Stin Pace and Gaze. The Patience of Prey a rewiting your tably Careas on hind flank.
Waiting for a bus which early

But lam Not a RacisT! I am only a fainting about pracist Longing, a desire for enough Stronger than the will to Survive. Paintings like the Moner our OWN LAWS and logic and are free than you ever will BE.

like there's no tomorrow, Crack foots the bill. American Patriots Contort Always one baby born in a dumpster Psyche misremembers Eros in his smoky room, squatting on floor

This Painting does not exist as Real Speech

as lynching does not

Baby. Hey Daddy. Sweet little girl Knows how to rock and roll

Sister

TO CUT A BODY OUT of no WHERE.
TO CONJURE UP A DEMON AND WORSHIP HIS FRIVOLITY TO Whip that ass

loosened by excertion, writhe, like broken antannae. Hill alive, but dying for more

black women mostly

Waddle their lard-asses into view Pulling a pushcart loaded with

broken Possessions, if they

are Poor it is not your problem

Little Black Babies (Will be the only babies !

Nappy Headed Ho's have for you? When you spy in you rearview mirror their Collectively

Curled upper lip, flored nostril

does it flood your Cunt with

envy or dread?

What is the WORD these

Freedom is a quick buck Nature is a suickbuck

fat lost black chick Cunt all exposed stretched to the maximum. eyes. Set back puffed in her obese head. Words Slur abrasively against tongue, slick with drink Lubricating his rough touch.

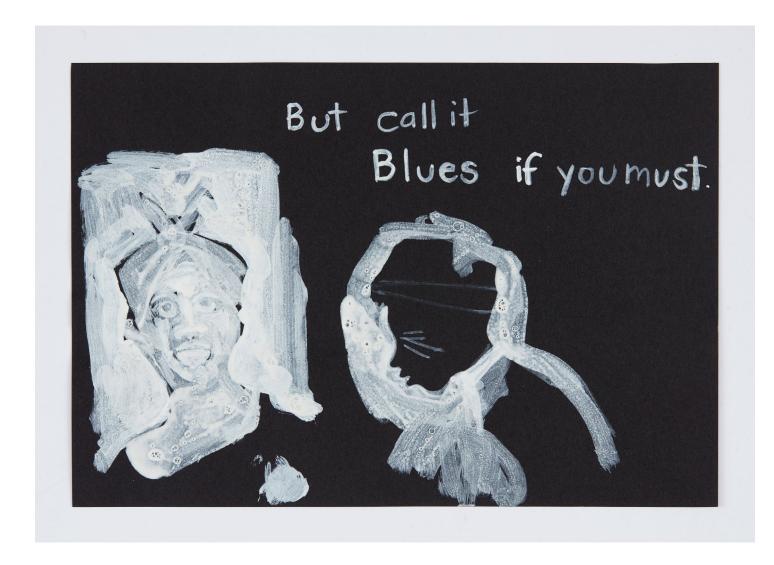
Trying to find





Posult: Mystified Stares from a Non-comprehending Public Desire: a better body of Work to follow









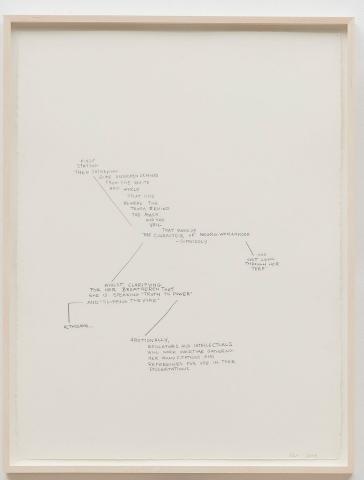


Untitled, Pre-2007 Graphite on paper 30 x 22.5 inches (76.2 x 57.2 cm)

Untitled, 2010 Graphite on paper 8.25 x 11.75 inches (21 x 29.8 cm)































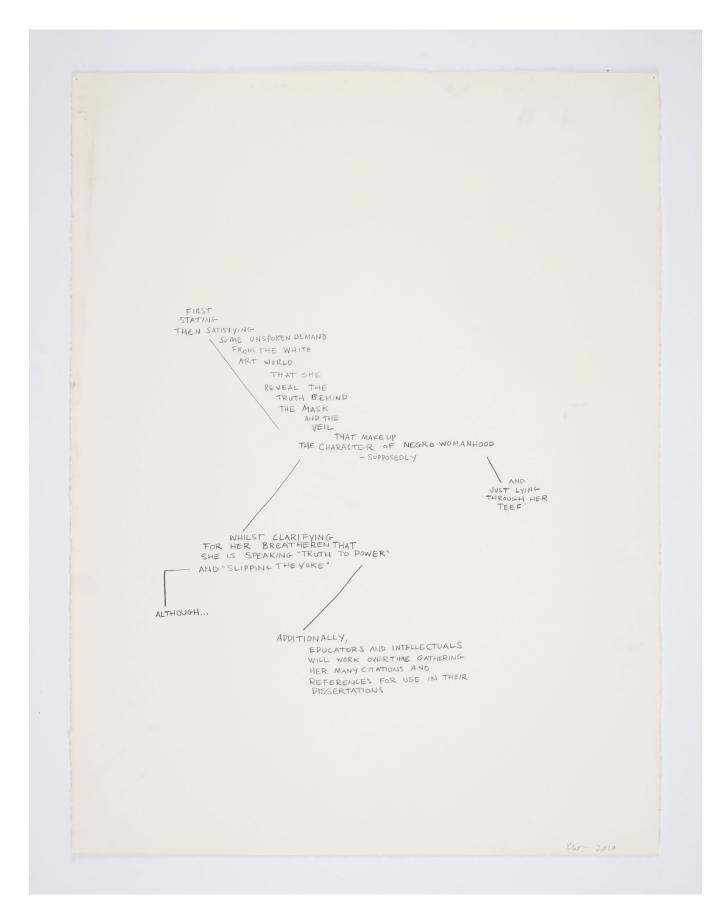






Untitled, Pre-2007 Cut paper collage 19.5 x 25.5 inches (49.5 x 64.8 cm)

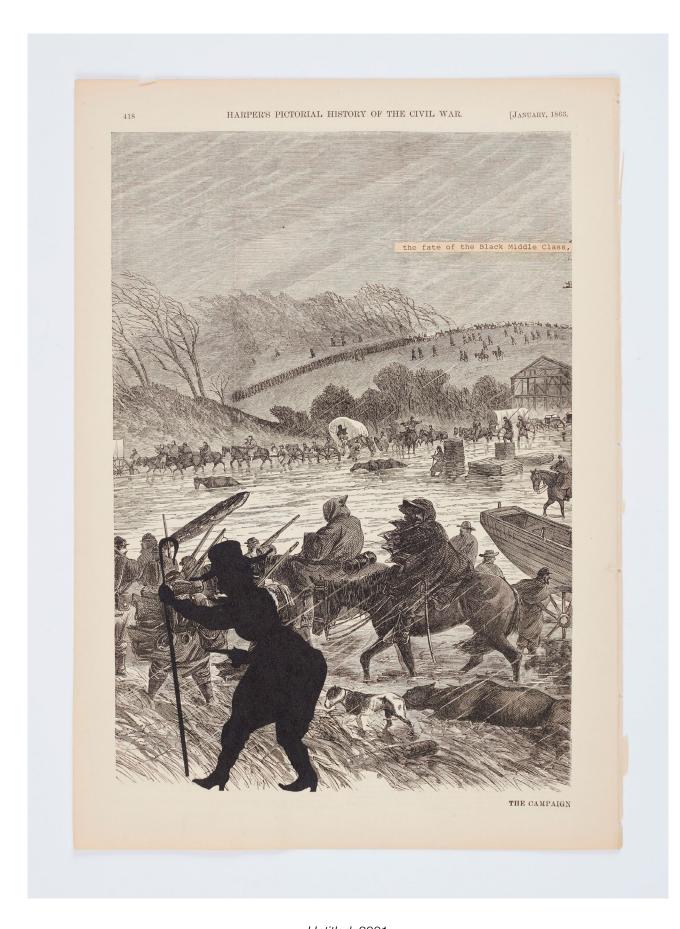
Untitled, Pre-2007 Watercolor, and ink on paper 30 x 23.375 inches (76.2 x 59.4 cm)



Untitled, 2010
Graphite on paper
30 x 22.5 inches (76.2 x 57.2 cm)



Notebooks 2019, 2019
Collage, ink, marker, photocopy, tape, stickers, gouache, watercolor, graphite, and colored pencil on paper
Suite of 36 works: 10.875 x 8.875 inches (27.6 x 22.5 cm) each





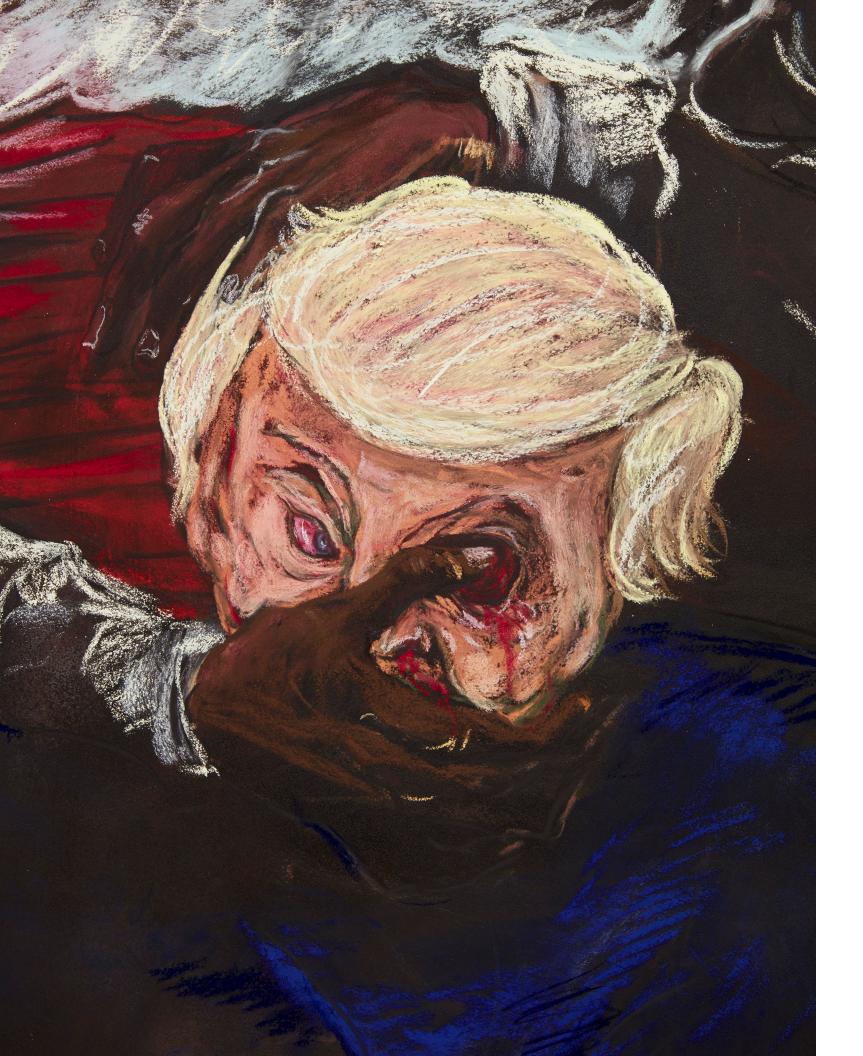








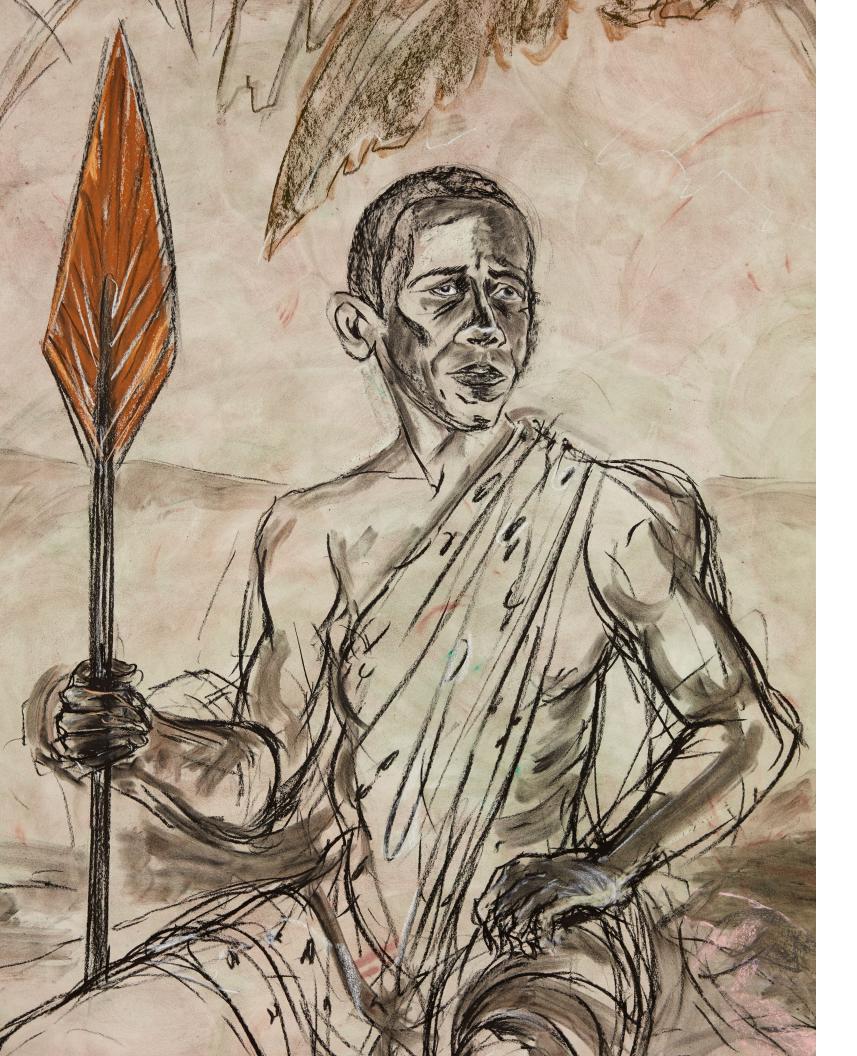
Barack Obama Tormented Saint Anthony Putting Up With the Whole "Birther" Conspiracy, 2019
Pastel, Conté crayon, charcoal on treated paper
87.375 x 72 inches (221.9 x 182.9 cm)

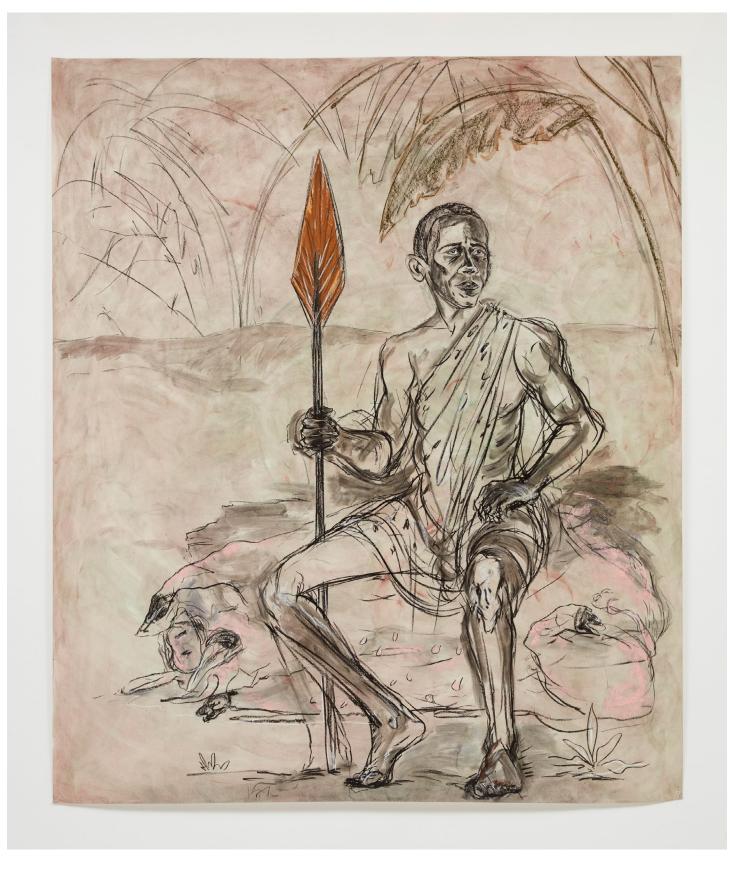




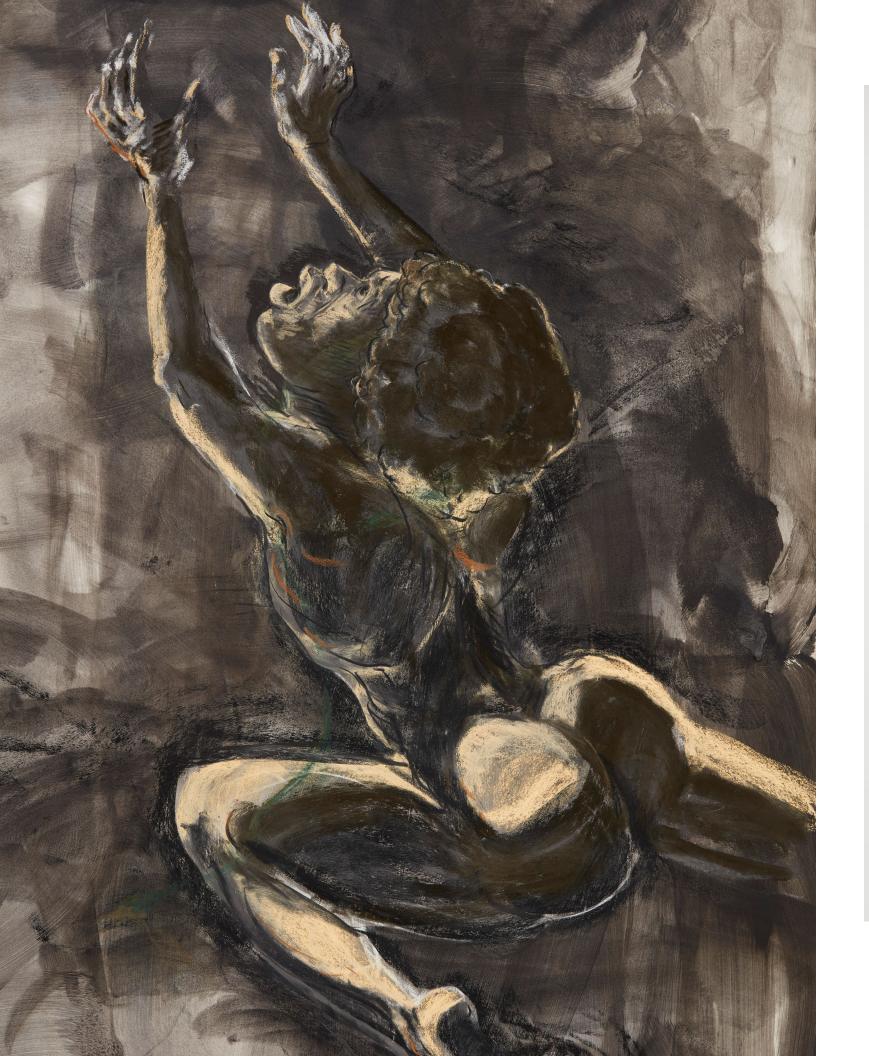
Barack Obama as Othello "The Moor" With the Severed Head of lago in a New and Revised Ending by Kara E. Walker, 2019
Pastel, Conté crayon, charcoal on treated paper
87.375 x 72 inches (221.9 x 182.9 cm)







Barack Obama as "An African" With a Fat Pig (by Kara Walker), 2019
Pastel, Conté crayon, charcoal on treated paper
85.75 x 72 inches (217.8 x 182.9 cm)





Allegory of the Obama Years by Kara E. Walker, 2019
Pastel, Conté crayon, charcoal on treated paper
87.375 x 72 inches (221.9 x 182.9 cm)





COMPLETE THE LOSS THE ABSONCE THESE IN MY HEART AT NOT HAVING YOU MALLEN AND HOTHER NOW. THE SKNIPP IS TALLAW DRY

















EXPERT READ
POST POST RACIAL
TRANSITION
GRACE PERIOD
MINUS POLICE
SHOOTINGS OF
AND ABUSE TOWARD
LITTLE BLACK GIRCS
IN
BIKINIS I
SURVIVE | SURVIVE

VISCOUS DEHYDRATED SEMEN? CARED IPON YOUR

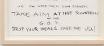






WHEN ARE YOU GANNA GET OVER THAT?















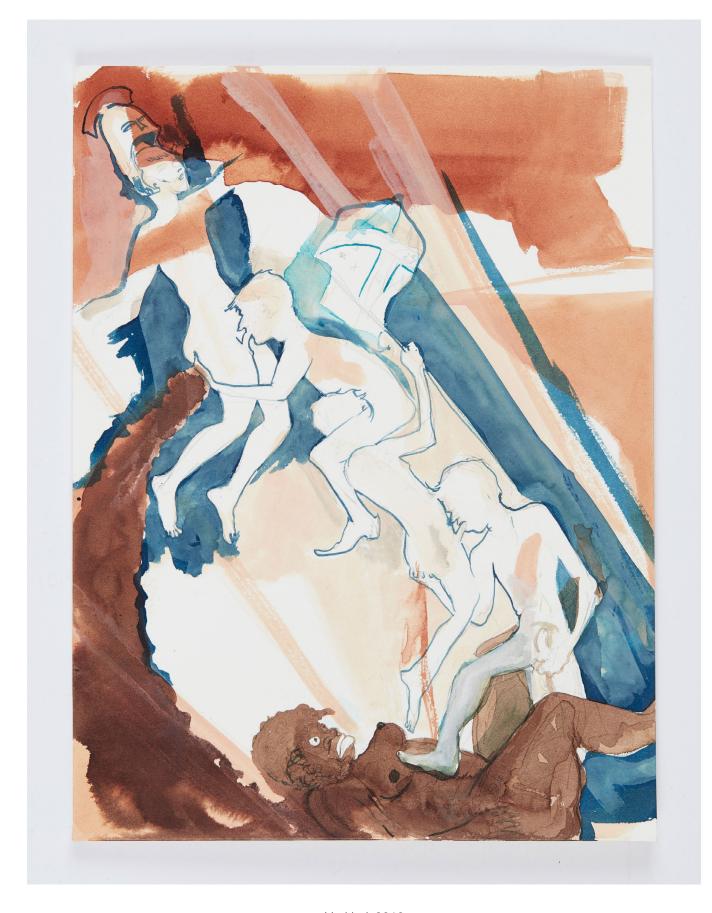














Untitled, 2013
Watercolor and graphite on paper
12.5 x 9.375 inches (31.8 x 23.8 cm)

Untitled, 2008 Ink on paper 28 x 22 inches (71.1 x 55.9 cm)





BLACK LIVES STIPPED MATTERING THE MIM.

HE LEFT OFFICE. PARKNESS PREVAILED SWALLOWING W.

WE MERGE.

FRIGHTLESS.

MAKING THE NIGHTLY NEWS LESS

PERFORMANGE OF RACE

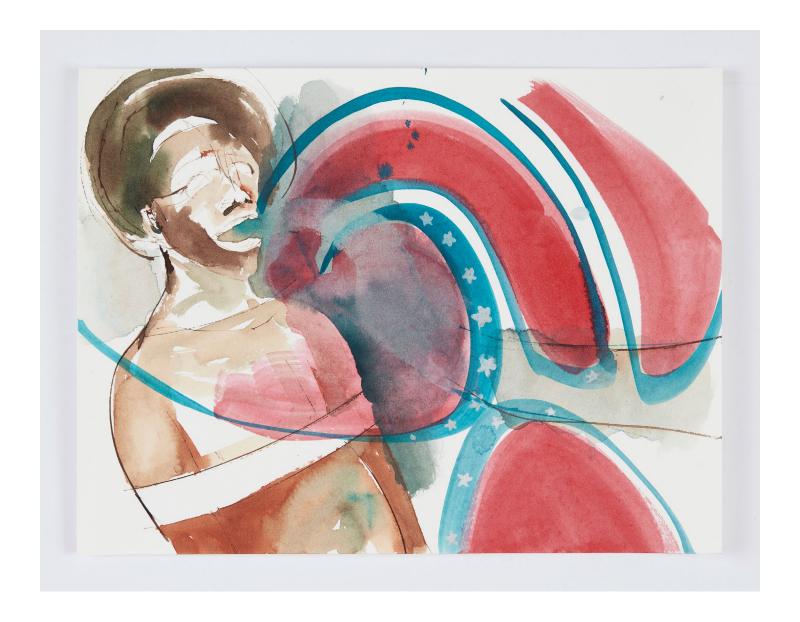
MINSTRELL SHOW JUMP SPIN DO-JEST-SO

JIM CROW DAMPY FAIR WELL FARE WELL

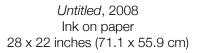


Only I Can Solve This (the 2016 election), 2016 Ink, watercolor, and graphite on paper Suite of 31 works on paper: 10.25 x 7.125 inches (26 x 18.1 cm) each







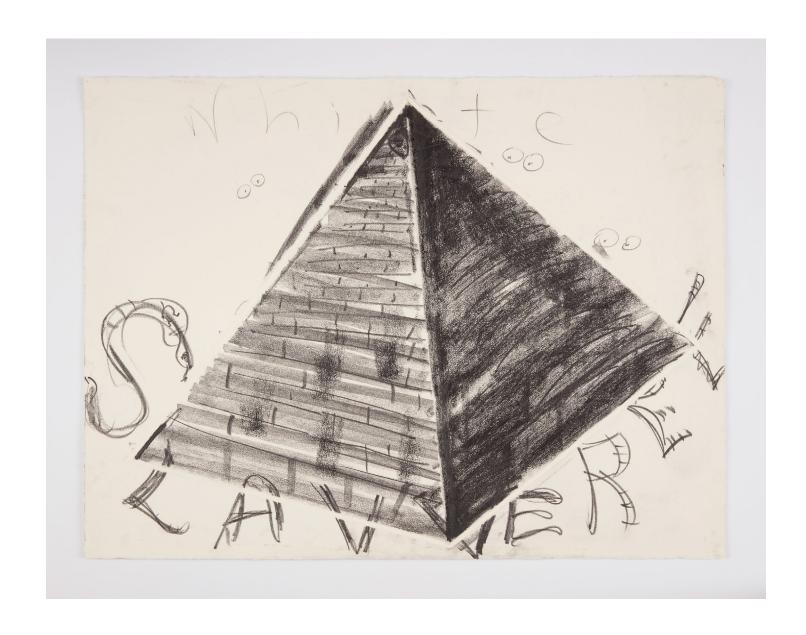




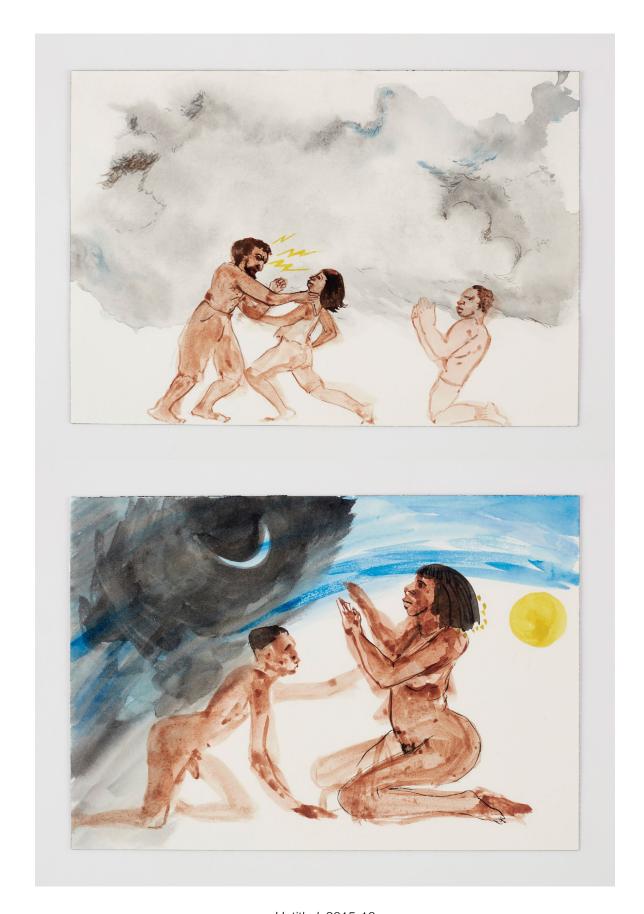
Untitled, 2013
Ink and watercolor on paper
12.5 x 9.625 inches (31.8 x 24.4 cm)











AMERICAN

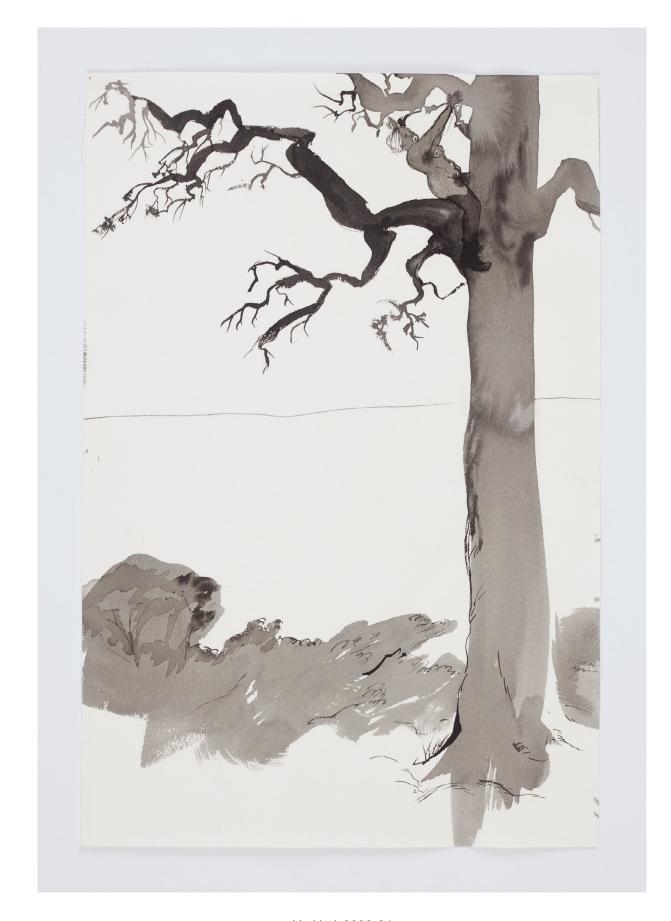
Untitled, 2015-16
Watercolor, ink, and graphite on paper
Suite of 8 works on paper: 4 @ 10.25 x 7.125 inches (26 x 18.1 cm) each,
4 @ 11.75 x 8.25 inches (29.8 x 21 cm) each



Untitled, Pre-2007 Ink, pastel, and graphite on paper 27.5 x 19.625 inches (69.9 x 49.8 cm)



Untitled, 2014
Ink and gouache on paper
22.25 x 15 inches (56.5 x 38.1 cm)

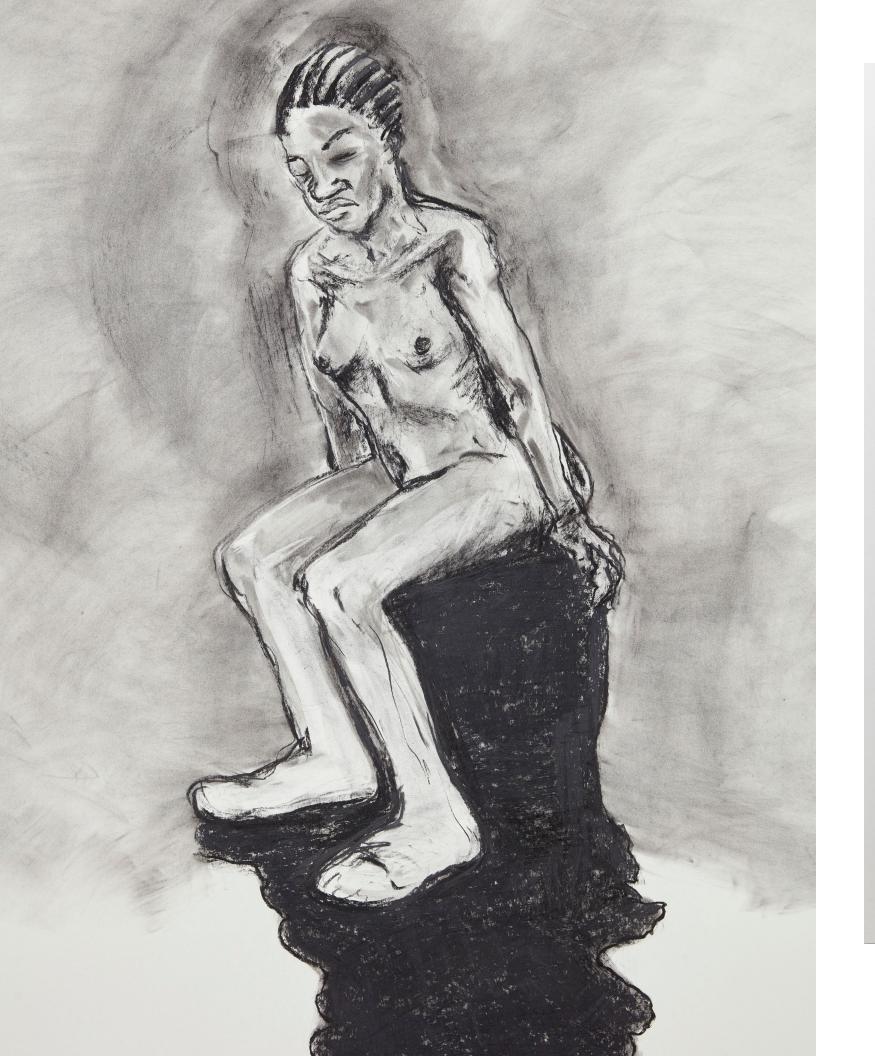




Untitled, 2002-04
Watercolor, ink, graphite, collage, and cut paper on paper
From suite of 24 works on paper: dimensions variable

Untitled, 2008 Ink on paper 22 x 28 inches (55.9 x 71.1 cm)







(Fons Americanus archive), 2019 Charcoal and graphite on paper 93.125 x 72 inches (236.5 x 182.9 cm)





Palmetto Libretto, 2012
Ink, watercolor, graphite, gouache, pastel, collage
From suite of 5 works on paper: 15.25 x 22.625 inches (38.7 x 57.5 cm) each





Untitled, no date
Collage and adhesive on paper
12.5 x 18.875 inches (31.8 x 47.9 cm)

Untitled, 2002-03
Collage, ink, and gouache on paper
From suite of 13 works on paper; dimensions variable





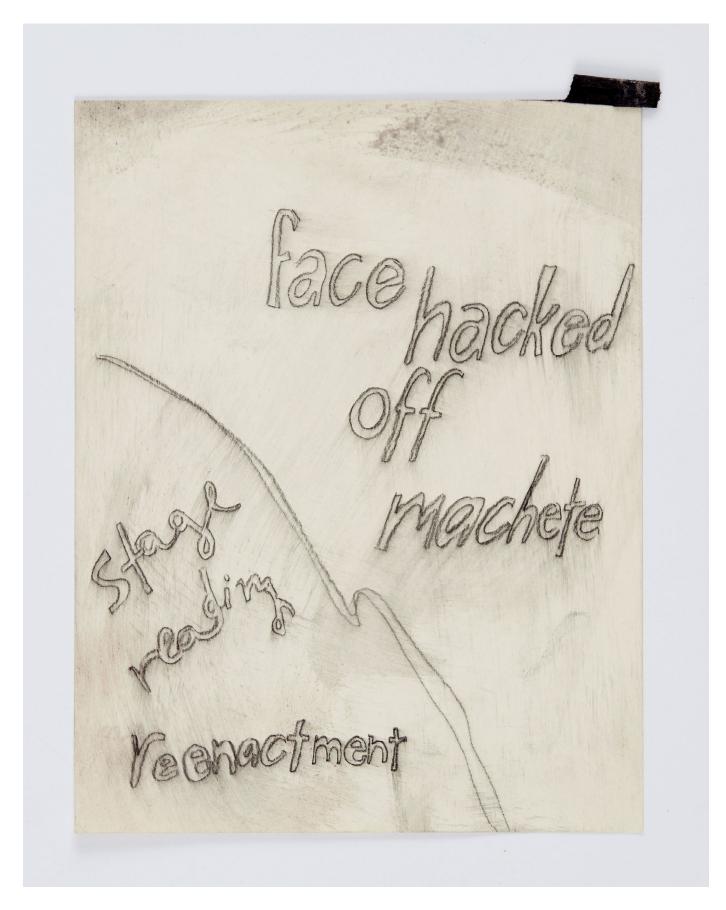




Untitled, 2002-07
Graphite, colored pencil, pastel, marker, and collage on paper
Suite of 2 works on paper: 5.5 x 5.5 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm) each



Untitled, 2008 Cut paper 2 elements: black silhouette by itself is 7.5×6.5 inches, white silhouette by itself is 6×5.75 inches



Untitled, 2008
Graphite and collage on paper
From suite of 4 works on paper; dimensions variable



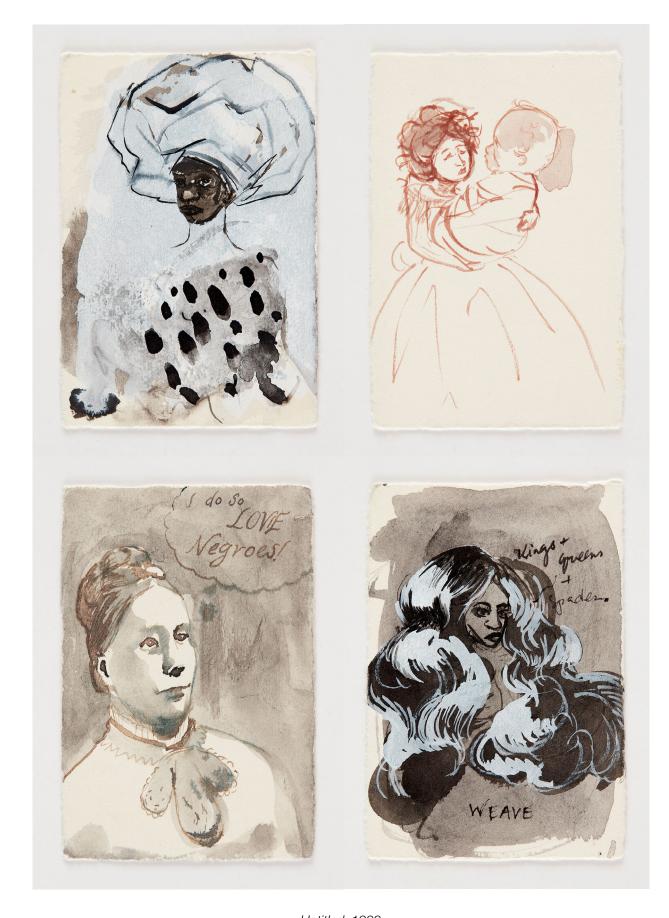
Untitled, no date
Cut paper
22 x 15.125 inches (55.9 x 38.4 cm)











Untitled, 2000 Ink and graphite on paper Suite of 21 works on paper: 5 x 3 inches (12.7 x 7.6 cm) each

Untitled, 1999
Watercolor, ink, graphite, pastel, acrylic, gouache, and tape on paper
Suite of 31 works on paper: 30 @ 3.75 x 2.5 inches (9.5 x 6.4 cm) each









