For Immediate Release
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With the help of [Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation](http://www.jordanschnitzer.org/), the [Pendleton Center for the Arts](https://pendletonarts.org/) has been able to host major exhibits of work by some of the icons of art history, including Chuck Close, Louise Bourgeois, and Ellsworth Kelly. In 2020, the art of Kara Walker will fill the gallery, including her iconic silhouette prints, photogravures based on videotaped shadow plays and a host of sculptural objects that seek to expand the viewer’s engagement with her work. The exhibit, *Kara Walker: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation,* opens on Thursday, March 5 with a reception for the public from 6:00-7:30 PM. The all-ages event is free and open to the general public.

Kara Walker was born in Stockton, California in 1969 and her family moved to Stone Mountain, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, when she was 13. Walker received her BFA from the Atlanta College of Art in 1991 and her MFA from the Rhode Island School of in 1994. Moving at an impressionable age from a multi-cultural California environment to a small Georgia town where they still held Klu Klux Klan rallies had a profound impact on Walker. In graduate school she began exploring the history of American slavery and racism through silhouettes of exaggerated characteristics of persistent racial and gender stereotypes. She has since gone on to explore these themes in mediums as diverse as glass, metal, and even sugar. In 2014 her 40-foot tall sugar-covered sculpture *A Subtlety*, designed as a tribute to the African American women involved in the 19th century sugar trade, drew more than 130,000 visitors.

In 1997 Walker received a MacArthur fellowship, commonly referred to as the “Genius Grant.” She was only 28 at the time and one of the youngest people ever recognized with the award. In 2007, Walker was listed among Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Artists and Entertainers in the World, and in 2012 she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

[The Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation](http://www.jordanschnitzer.org/) has been collaborating with museums to exhibit and lend prints since 1997. The expansive collection features work from the 1960s to the twenty-first century and includes more than 8000 works on paper by more than 250 artists. The collaboration with the Pendleton Center for the Arts is built on Schnitzer’s passion for making great art accessible and a deep affection for the Pendleton community. He has been a major sponsor of the Pendleton Round Up and has also funded a college scholarship program for the Round Up Court and the Happy Canyon Indian Princesses.

The Pendleton exhibit is one of more than 110 exhibits in 150 museums that Schnitzer and the Foundation have sponsored over the past 25 years. Through the support of the Foundation, a wide range of visitors will have an opportunity to visit the gallery and view works that are usually reserved for large museums.

“Having Walker’s work here in Pendleton is an important step in bringing diverse perspectives to the gallery,” said PCA Executive Director Roberta Lavadour. “Her work is not always easy. Walker describes it as often having to do with exchanges of power, attempts to steal power away from others, which by definition is an uncomfortable subject to address. But her work also encourages engagement and dialogue, which is so important.”

While none of the works chosen for the exhibit are explicit, signage in the gallery will invite parents to preview works before bringing children into the space. Outreach activities will be geared to high school and college students and interactive displays will allow gallery visitors to link their personal devices to videos and more information.

The exhibit is on view through April 25, 2020 and admission is free for all ages. Group tours, gallery presentations and after-hours access are available by emailing director@pendletonarts.org. More information is available by calling 541-278-9201 or online at pendletonarts.org.

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