

## The Visual Memory of Narrative

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### **Abstract**

In this research, the art of Kara Walker is analyzed through the philosophical framework provided by Paul Ricoeur, a prominent figure in French thought. The central argument posits that both Ricoeur and Walker do not regard difference as a source of fear; rather, Ricoeur's philosophy compels us to engage ethically with the notion of otherness. Simultaneously, Walker's provocative artwork makes this ethical engagement not just necessary but impossible to dismiss. This analysis draws upon their respective philosophies and artistic practices, underscoring the moral imperative to confront difference while also recognizing the indispensable value of remembering history and remaining receptive to the narratives of others. Through a detailed intertextual investigation, the intention is to foster a substantial dialogue between the ideas of Ricoeur and the artistic expressions of Walker. At this critical juncture in socio-political discourse, particular emphasis is placed on Ricoeur's foundational text, *Oneself as Another*, in conjunction with Walker's impactful creation, *Darkytown Rebellion*. This relationship highlights the complex interplay between their works, encouraging a more profound comprehension of the shared themes and positioning the notion of difference as an essential moral responsibility that we must collectively embrace.

**Keywords:** Narrative, Ethics, Memory, Paul Ricoeur, Kara Walker