

ΔΕΣΤΕ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ίδρυμα ΔΕΣΤΕ
Εμ. Παππά & Φιλελλήνων 11.
142 34 Νέα Ιωνία
Αθήνα Ελλάς

DESTE Foundation
11 Filellinon & Em. Pappa St.
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Athens Greece

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May, 2017

KARA WALKER - FIGA

DESTE Foundation Project Space
Slaughterhouse, Hydra

Duration: June 20 – September 30, 2017

Opening Hours,
Monday - Friday: 11:00 - 13:00 & 19:00 – 22:00
Tuesday Closed

High Resolution Images:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pl5iisiishf7ire/AABV3mYSs00I3UAxydSidU0Ka?dl=0>

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Every summer since 2009, DESTE has invited an artist or group of artists to create an exhibition in the Foundation's Project Space, a former slaughterhouse on the island of Hydra. This year, DESTE is happy to present a site-specific project by **Kara Walker**.

The project will transport *Figa*, the left hand of the sphinx-like monument of the *A Subtlety* installation, made with polystyrene and sugar, from its "new world" location at the Domino Sugar Factory in New York to Greece, the birthplace of Western civilization. Configured into a fist with thumb thrust between the index and middle fingers (known as the "fig sign"), the Figa has multiple meanings across culture and history, from Ancient Greece and Rome into the modern era. While it is generally thought of as a very rude sign, it also has magical properties as an emblem of fertility and protection against the evil eye.

In its new location, the sculpture's transformation from art object to holy relic will be completed by further applying copious amounts of sugar to its surface in a collective act of "sweetening" the loss of home, country, ideology, or faith that is our global zeitgeist. Appealing to the condition of slaves, migrants, refugees, outcasts, and marginalized peoples, *Figa*, like *A Subtlety* before her, draws on the pilgrim spirit in all of us that seeks spiritual and material fulfillment at the end of a catastrophic journey.

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Kara Walker, *Figa*, 2014
Courtesy Kara Walker

Note: *Figa* is the fist in the background of the image.