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Harmless plaything or cultural tool?  
**PAPER CUTS: 200 YEARS OF BLACK PAPER DOLLS**  
**January 25 – March 29, 2009**

Toys, like other artifacts of material culture, reveal much about prevailing cultural attitudes and the exercise of power in society. Mass produced toys, such as paper dolls, are specifically designed for wide appeal and, therefore, reflect dominant attitudes and values—often at the expense of subordinated cultures. Since a successful toy must delight and interest a child, comical and simplistic caricatures of minorities often occur both to entertain as well as to draw a line between dominant and subordinate cultures.

Opening January 25, 2009 in honor of African American History Month, *Paper Cuts: 200 Years of Black Paper Dolls* documents the evolving cultural images of African Americans throughout the last 200 years: from Little Black Sambo to Tiger Woods; from Josephine Baker to Beyoncé. Drawn from the extensive collection of writer and researcher Arabella Grayson, the exhibit will feature some of the first black paper dolls produced in the United States—the family of characters from Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*—and the rise of one of the most recognizable African Americans in advertising, Aunt Jemimah. Using paper dolls as social and historic markers, the exhibit travels from the civil rights movement to present day sports and entertainment figures while illuminating changing cultural images of African Americans.

*Paper Cuts* presents an enlightening, and often unsettling, record of American cultural attitudes. No longer simple playthings, paper dolls are vehicles of satire, of critique, and, more importantly, are a tribute to exceptional people and events. *Paper Cuts* will be a learning experience both in the gallery and in a host of workshops, tours, and classes scheduled during this not-to-miss exhibit.

**\*\*\* Images available upon request \*\*\***

### **About CAFAM**

**...because a shrinking world requires an EXPANDED mind.**

CAFAM champions cultural understanding by encouraging curiosity about our diverse world. Our exhibits and programs serve as a catalyst for the exploration of art and ideas that reflect our ever-changing community. In a shrinking world, CAFAM believes in building common ground. As the twenty-first century brings global cultures ever closer together, we often find ourselves traveling in unfamiliar lands. This mapless new landscape requires inter-cultural fluency and frequent trips to CAFAM.

### **CAFAM**

5814 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

### **Information**

Tel. 323-937-4230

[www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org)

### **Museum Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 am – 5 pm

Thursday 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday and Sunday 12 – 6 pm

### **Museum Admission**

General \$5.00 / Students and Seniors 3.00






Members and Children under 12 Free / Free 1st Wednesday of month

## PAPER CUTS: 200 YEARS OF BLACK PAPER DOLLS

January 25 – March 29, 2009

Craft and Folk Art Museum

### IMAGE LIST

	<p>(image1)</p> <p><i>Sally Hemings</i> Artist: Donald Hendricks Legacy Designs, circa 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper doll with three fashionable outfits with two-page biographical narrative on Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson and their relationship.</li></ul>
	<p>(image2)</p> <p><i>I'se Topsey Doll</i> C&amp;H Sugar Recipe Booklet, 1930s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A character from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>, the best-selling novel of the mid-1800s, the young slave girl Topsey is the first black American paper doll.</li></ul>
	<p>(image3)</p> <p><i>Gone With the Wind – Part One</i> Artist: Bob Harman Bob Harman Publications, 1988 (Illustrated 1975)</p>
	<p>(image4)</p> <p><i>Aunt Jemima</i> J. Ottman Lithography Co., New York, 1895</p>
	<p>(image 5)</p> <p><i>Josephine Baker</i> Artist: Bruce Patrick Jones Bruce Patrick Jones Designs, 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nude torso of the doll plus six outfits.</li></ul>