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00:08:38.130 --> 00:08:46.320

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Tyree Boyd Pates and I am the Associate Curator of listen history at the Museum of the American West.

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00:08:46.710 --> 00:08:55.140

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I'm honored and privileged along with the Archie trustees and staff to welcome you to the arteries artists salons Compton cowboys blackness in Los Angeles.

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00:08:55.380 --> 00:09:06.180

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Joining me today is a good friend. Walter Thompson Hernandez, Walter is a former New York Times reporter and has also written for NPR fusion BBC and the Guardian

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00:09:07.860 --> 00:09:17.310

Tyree Boyd-Pates: He is the 2019 recipient of the whitening creative nonfiction Award for his book The Compton calculates the new generation of cowboys and America's urban Heartland.

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00:09:17.730 --> 00:09:25.590

Tyree Boyd-Pates: To begin, if you have any questions during our conversation, please enter them in the Q AMP a feature at the bottom of your zoom window.

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00:09:25.980 --> 00:09:35.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And the Autry of the American West represents something slightly different to each of you who visit us physically and virtually for me this personal connection is one of the most

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00:09:36.210 --> 00:09:42.660

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Gratifying and defining strength of our institution, along with continuing are collecting community history initiative.

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00:09:43.050 --> 00:09:47.910

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I'm excited for today's program, highlighting the African American experience in the West.

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00:09:48.330 --> 00:09:57.330

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Walters work and this history of black lives in Los Angeles, past and present, and the complexity of identity for youth and Los Angeles's urban centers.

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00:09:57.600 --> 00:10:10.410

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We take pains offer treasures for all visitors as we present represent and purposely complicate traditional and modern visions of the American West, Walter. Thank you for joining us today.

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00:10:14.490 --> 00:10:32.310

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I am so happy that you're with us, man. Because this conversation is not only necessary you but you have actually contributed in really gainful ways and moving the needle forward and the conversation forward and I really just kind of want to unpack like

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00:10:33.810 --> 00:10:36.240

Tyree Boyd-Pates: You are the process behind the book.

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00:10:37.320 --> 00:10:51.720

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Some of the, the, the history surrounding this moment. And then lastly, the future of the of your work and Compton cowboys as a lot at large. So, yeah, man, let's get started to tell everyone because you know i know well

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00:10:51.720 --> 00:11:05.460

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah tell everyone about your background, growing up in Los Angeles and notably as it relates to your career in journalism and desiring to document the black experience in the American west, especially for the constant cowboys.

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00:11:07.110 --> 00:11:08.160

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Then you for this opportunity.

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00:11:08.160 --> 00:11:11.190

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I'm, I'm really excited. Like I'm, I'm a huge fan of the museum.

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00:11:12.450 --> 00:11:13.680

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's like a really cool opportunity.

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00:11:13.800 --> 00:11:14.220

I'm

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00:11:15.300 --> 00:11:20.910

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I'm from LA, right, like I'm born and raised in se la about five minutes away from watts.

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00:11:21.600 --> 00:11:31.920

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And like I am like someone who, you know, kind of grew up in schools right like Ella USD schools like never really learning about, you know, the black cowboy experience, per se, right, and you know it's interesting because

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00:11:32.970 --> 00:11:40.740

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like the company cowboys right like are a group of friends. You know who are essentially like the second and third generation.

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00:11:41.310 --> 00:11:49.230

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like African American writers in content right but like it wasn't until I was about six years old that I kind of like first saw black cowboys and content.

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00:11:49.830 --> 00:11:57.600

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And it was just like, it's really sort of like watershed moment because like it's a moment where I'm sort of confronted with this like this really rich history.

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00:11:58.200 --> 00:12:03.930

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Why also understanding that you know that history wasn't being taught in schools right and and i think the

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00:12:04.710 --> 00:12:11.310

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The most important part of that about that experience was that like I wasn't alone right like there were other sort of like black and brown kids like me.

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00:12:11.910 --> 00:12:15.180

Walter Thompson-Hernández: All over LA and sound like we're also being

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00:12:15.720 --> 00:12:24.030

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Neglected of this story. And so, um, I think as an adult and as a New York Times writer, like it was really important for me to like, come back home, essentially.

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00:12:24.270 --> 00:12:30.270

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And to really sort of like think about the capitalism and to think about you know what they represent and how important their, their stories.

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00:12:33.660 --> 00:12:40.980

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Which is something that resonated me I have lived. I lived in Compton for about two years and

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00:12:42.150 --> 00:12:46.020

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And a lot of people don't know that Compton has such a, like a complex

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00:12:47.040 --> 00:12:51.570

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Role history and agricultural community. And when I was when I was reading

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00:12:52.140 --> 00:13:01.980

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's getting through the book and preparation for this conversation. I was like, You really were able to really jumped into the heart of the conversation, but also the heart of content and um

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00:13:02.850 --> 00:13:12.000

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And you did that really wisely with the content junior posse aka the cowboys and which I learned from your book as a community of like 10 people

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00:13:12.390 --> 00:13:27.420

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And you came up with, which came about with a desire to create community in south LA. Why did. Why did the company cowboys feels necessary to come together, especially as black us predominant back us in this day and age.

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00:13:27.870 --> 00:13:37.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Absolutely. So the copy cowboys are essentially the two point O version of a group called the competition, you're passing right which was started in 1988 by

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00:13:38.040 --> 00:13:47.190

Walter Thompson-Hernández: My shack bar. I'm the company Cabo with are essentially the children. You know who she helped raise and who she taught them how to ride horses to write

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00:13:48.180 --> 00:13:58.590

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, it was really important for them because, like, a lot of them kind of like stop riding horses right throughout like their teenage years like things came up and started families and a lot of different things happened.

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00:13:59.220 --> 00:14:06.690

Walter Thompson-Hernández: They sort of come together in 2017 like in a sort of like serendipitous way right where I think they're all kind of in their

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00:14:07.260 --> 00:14:17.100

Walter Thompson-Hernández: MID TO LATE 20s early 30s and there's this sort of like longing and yearning for for the experiences that they shared in this really special horse ranch in the middle of competent right

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00:14:17.250 --> 00:14:18.540

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And I think for a lot of people

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00:14:18.900 --> 00:14:28.920

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, sort of like juxtaposing like content and cowboys and like content and horse ranch like seems kind of paradoxical right for a lot of folks who aren't from competent lawyer from the area.

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00:14:29.250 --> 00:14:40.260

Walter Thompson-Hernández: But like the what they experienced you know as as young black men and room and women right was that this horse ranch located in an area of content, called the rich and farms.

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00:14:41.340 --> 00:14:45.420

Walter Thompson-Hernández: With essentially like so much more than in a place that that house horses.

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00:14:45.450 --> 00:14:48.300

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right, like it was a place that essentially became like

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00:14:48.420 --> 00:14:50.010

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Like a Healing Center, you know,

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00:14:50.460 --> 00:14:51.600

Walter Thompson-Hernández: There's this sort of like really

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00:14:52.290 --> 00:14:53.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Powerful and incredible

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00:14:54.330 --> 00:15:00.090

Walter Thompson-Hernández: redemptive quality about animals and horses right that that I feel like the company cowboys were exposed to really early.

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00:15:00.420 --> 00:15:12.450

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And so, as adults, I think like there was always a second yearning to, like, come back to that, you know, this sort of like pool of the ranch and so they officially came again in 2017 as the continent cowboys, you know,

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00:15:12.990 --> 00:15:24.570

Walter Thompson-Hernández: As a sort of like official moniker and you know they're committed to doing a few things. But I think more importantly, they're committed to, obviously we inserting the black cowboy and cowgirl back into the history books right

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00:15:25.170 --> 00:15:32.490

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like I said earlier, you know, this is a story you know in Compton school districts like it's not even it you know which which is so interesting how you know

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00:15:32.730 --> 00:15:40.830

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The schools exists of in and around content and they're not teaching about the experiences of like like cowboys and cowgirls like but both as

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00:15:41.250 --> 00:15:48.330

Walter Thompson-Hernández: As like really important figures in the founding of the American West, per se, but also in Compton. Right. And so I think

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00:15:48.720 --> 00:15:58.800

Walter Thompson-Hernández: They were really aware of that and wanted to sort of like, you know, do something about that. But also, you know, preserve this like legacy. Right. I think the common cowboys are like so keenly aware that

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00:15:59.490 --> 00:16:09.270

Walter Thompson-Hernández: If they don't pass on this tradition of equestrian culture and of course right and culture, then they might be contents last black cowboys and I think that's like a real fear for them.

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00:16:11.250 --> 00:16:15.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And which is a. Is it interesting paradox because growing up.

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00:16:15.240 --> 00:16:29.610

Tyree Boyd-Pates: In Los Angeles, like you and I have we, we know how hope the strengths and areas of development for the Los Angeles Unified School District, especially about like histories that reflect their student bodies.

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00:16:30.330 --> 00:16:34.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Which is interesting because as you're reclaiming and relinquishing

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00:16:35.190 --> 00:16:53.760

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Certain narratives about about our community. Why do you think it's important, or what does the Compton cowboy say about being black in Los Angeles is urban centers and how it has an impact on others because there are other cowboys and other urban centers. A lot of people don't know.

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00:16:54.120 --> 00:17:05.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: What I'm saying, I mean, you know, it's so much about the black experience, right, it says that, like, there's an obvious like cultural and racial ratio of the the achievements and experiences of black folks.

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00:17:06.240 --> 00:17:14.100

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Not just now, but throughout the country. Right. And I think the fact that this sort of like story has been essentially you know relegated to like

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00:17:14.550 --> 00:17:20.340

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The, the corners of like historical archives right like to me. This symbolizes let that this form of

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00:17:20.970 --> 00:17:29.580

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Ratio continues to happen. And so I think, you know, the fact that that these men and women, you know, hop on the horses and ride horses like

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00:17:30.330 --> 00:17:38.760

Walter Thompson-Hernández: There's something really political about that and and essentially historical about that. Right. So is this sort of like this like relationship where you know like

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00:17:38.850 --> 00:17:40.440

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The Cowboys are essentially writing to

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00:17:40.620 --> 00:17:41.700

Walter Thompson-Hernández: To not be forgotten.

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00:17:45.360 --> 00:17:59.790

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's, it's funny, because when you wrote your 2018 article about the Compton cowboys. I remember coming across my tagline, you might eat him and i mean i lived here for two years.

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00:18:00.240 --> 00:18:09.300

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah. That's awesome. What our voices but I didn't know. Like, like, mate. Like many audiences who are really read the title of the article.

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00:18:10.380 --> 00:18:13.920

Tyree Boyd-Pates: They understand the beautiful relationship between the blackness in the question.

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00:18:14.130 --> 00:18:16.800

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Right up to we're presenting an unfolding in front of us.

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00:18:17.070 --> 00:18:25.920

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And I'm especially in one of the most an area that is perceived as one of the most dangerous cities are areas of the city.

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00:18:26.340 --> 00:18:27.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Of the taco.

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00:18:27.270 --> 00:18:35.610

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Talk to me about them profile in what was what it was like writing needs its response. Clearly we're here today because of

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00:18:38.220 --> 00:18:41.730

Tyree Boyd-Pates: where we're at and how to lead us to where we are to have this conversation.

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00:18:42.450 --> 00:18:43.080

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Absolutely.

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00:18:43.290 --> 00:18:44.670

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So that that

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00:18:46.050 --> 00:18:51.000

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Near times feature I think like really sort of like set the tone for all of this right like that was a story.

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00:18:51.480 --> 00:18:59.700

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I just traveled to Ghana to work on a story. And to be honest, I was really homesick, like, you know, I wanted to be back in LA at that point.

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00:19:00.060 --> 00:19:08.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I was like a global cell culture writer, you know, I was traveling everywhere. And to be honest, I was homesick, like I wanted to be with like my mom and my honest, you know,

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00:19:09.390 --> 00:19:11.550

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So, like, all right, like how do I find a way

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00:19:11.970 --> 00:19:15.360

Walter Thompson-Hernández: To like be able to be in LA for for a while, you know, so

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00:19:15.780 --> 00:19:27.570

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Um, something told me to really think about, like, you know, like confidence cowboys and I was like, I wonder if if they're still doing their thing. I got one the best around. And I say that because I really thought about

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00:19:28.740 --> 00:19:37.860

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The sort of like visceral visceral response that I had to seeing them for the first time you know and like I thought I had to



channel that like six six year old my six year old self, essentially. And I was like,

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00:19:38.520 --> 00:19:39.720

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I feel like that'd be a really beautiful.

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00:19:39.720 --> 00:19:49.980

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Story for like folks to to not just know but to to understand and so I am I did were like any other millennial report, it would do. And I found my Instagram, you know,

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00:19:52.500 --> 00:19:56.190

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Instagram and like I sent them a DM and I was like, hey, I'm New York Times writer.

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00:19:56.520 --> 00:19:57.570

Walter Thompson-Hernández: But there's a picture like

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00:19:58.170 --> 00:20:10.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I live 10 minutes away from from your ranch. You know, is it possible to interview for a story. And, you know, like it was interesting because I think like when I shut up to the ranch like there was like skepticism, right, because like in so many different ways like

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00:20:11.010 --> 00:20:17.340

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I don't fit this like quintessential New York Times like Reporter By right

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00:20:18.480 --> 00:20:18.810

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Doesn't it

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00:20:19.020 --> 00:20:23.190

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah. Like, like, like I don't look like you know a guy who like

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00:20:23.250 --> 00:20:24.660

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Lives in Connecticut, or something like that, you

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00:20:24.660 --> 00:20:25.080

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Know like

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00:20:25.740 --> 00:20:32.700

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Me. So when I pull up to the ranch and knock on their door like there's like, you know, like deep questions, right, like, who is this guy, what do you want

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00:20:33.120 --> 00:20:33.330

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And

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00:20:33.660 --> 00:20:38.790

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, it's funny cuz I spent that a lot. So I have to like carry like business cards with me wherever I go, you know, like

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00:20:38.820 --> 00:20:42.270

Walter Thompson-Hernández: When you're, you know, business card so yeah yeah

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00:20:43.590 --> 00:20:48.270

Walter Thompson-Hernández: That happened. But you know, I, you know, shortly after that. I think there was just like, really sort of like

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00:20:48.930 --> 00:20:53.130

Walter Thompson-Hernández: This like honest relationship that was formed because like they realize that you know like

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00:20:53.880 --> 00:20:59.790

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I live right down the street from the community. We're all the same age. We all kind of grew up in the same way. And I think for them and for me.

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00:21:00.180 --> 00:21:13.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It was really special to essentially like be working on a story about a group of men and women who reminded me of like the friends like right so i think like that was the biggest difference is that like this wasn't a story that was like voyeuristic, or like, you know, sensational

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00:21:14.820 --> 00:21:18.750

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It was kind of told with their help and I think is a really powerful story because

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00:21:21.300 --> 00:21:21.900

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It is

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00:21:23.070 --> 00:21:26.700

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's funny that you say this because it sounds like it wasn't a story.

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00:21:27.780 --> 00:21:38.100

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It wasn't a story about them, it was, it wasn't a story for them. That was the story about them. And, um, and I think ironically museums, as a whole, even

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00:21:38.820 --> 00:21:46.920

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Some of the things that I'm bringing and teasing out at the Autry is like curating with communities or communities and so

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00:21:47.610 --> 00:22:06.030

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Naturally, when, as you were writing for community as opposed to about it. Um, what was a response after after the story came out, because not only did it resonate with them seeing it naturally on the surface. But what was the what response that you get and how did it lead to the book today.

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00:22:06.420 --> 00:22:18.690

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, yeah, totally. Um, it was a really overwhelmingly positive with fine. You know, I think for me it's like, you know, so many of us like faculty of this, right. Like, if we're from an area and from a certain community.

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00:22:19.320 --> 00:22:32.430

Walter Thompson-Hernández: We kind of assume that like everyone knows about this store right but but it was just so intriguing and fascinating for me to like most of the responses I was getting an emails and messages from people I never met before people in Finland.

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00:22:32.820 --> 00:22:39.330

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Because I, you know, people Florida people in France, like people who are who are really sort of like I think like just

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00:22:39.840 --> 00:22:46.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: captivated by the story for obvious reasons. I think you know unfortunately content has had a stigma around the world. You know when when we're posting good content, you know,

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00:22:47.250 --> 00:22:52.830

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think alike gangs environments. Dr. Dre and easy and whatever, and like you know that that's part of the story like

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00:22:53.220 --> 00:23:00.690

Walter Thompson-Hernández: There's no denying that like like those experiences are part of content. But now, our content. And I think for a lot of folks, you know,

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00:23:01.080 --> 00:23:10.920

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It led to this like you know this, it became like a viral story and the lead to, you know, a book deal a letter of film do lead to a lot of different things. And I think like for me.

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00:23:11.880 --> 00:23:17.520

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think you're absolutely right. Like, it was really important to, like, you know, create a story with them. I think like both.

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00:23:17.940 --> 00:23:25.590

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In the arts and great abroad in journalism and in museum culture. Right. I think so many of us like we're essentially trained

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00:23:26.040 --> 00:23:40.440

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In, you know, to think that we are the experts right and and I think part of that is true. I think you know there is a sort of like rigorous training that we go through, you know, to do what we do. There's hours of work and practice and training, but I think ultimately

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00:23:41.850 --> 00:23:49.290

Walter Thompson-Hernández: There's like a reframing that I think has happened and that and I fully believe it, you know, I'm, I'm not the expert of someone's story.

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00:23:49.410 --> 00:23:49.920

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Writing like

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00:23:50.160 --> 00:23:57.720

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I can never be the expert, you know, if anything, the first thing I tell people when I meet them for first story is that listen, like you're the expert here.

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00:23:58.200 --> 00:24:07.380

Walter Thompson-Hernández: No, not me. And I think for a lot of folks like that sounds refreshing right because like there's obviously a history, you know, and anthropology right where it's like, you have these like

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00:24:07.770 --> 00:24:13.560

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Things like train and nobody's going into communities of color in the world and sort of extracting information.

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00:24:13.620 --> 00:24:28.200

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And writing and parachuting in and I think for me, like that's never been my approach and also see that in you as well. I know. Like, like, like both of us. So to share that, you know, there's this sort of like there's a commentary on sort of idea of how we

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00:24:28.620 --> 00:24:28.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: How we

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00:24:29.070 --> 00:24:31.620

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Were questions that and how we work with with them for communities.

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00:24:31.920 --> 00:24:41.250

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Right, right. It's very egalitarian democratic process, which effectively broaden the landscape for more communities to get involved with

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00:24:42.600 --> 00:24:53.820

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah, it's so it was really refreshing to hear you say it because it reminds me of how whether it is a museum exhibition or a book or film.

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00:24:54.510 --> 00:25:10.920

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's the medium is the message and so carriers there of and it's it's it sounds when when you talk about it. And what I read from reading your book is like there's an enthusiasm that you have Walter and like it sounds like you and the company come was

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00:25:12.240 --> 00:25:15.420

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Essentially, like a pot of gold or like you blend it in a pot of gold.

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00:25:15.570 --> 00:25:20.670

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Because it sounds like such a rewarding experience for you in them and

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00:25:20.850 --> 00:25:32.400

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And can you provide like what's your favorite or most rewarding aspect for you and for them so far because outside of like the notoriety and visibility that kind of comes with great stories like this.

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00:25:33.720 --> 00:25:51.510

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think you know if I'm being completely honest with you, I think, you know, the most rewarding aspect of of this experience, but also our experiences for me when, like, you know, writing or like documenting or storytelling right is is to know that you know I got the story right

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00:25:51.780 --> 00:25:55.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, like, like that. That to me means more than the amount

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00:25:55.680 --> 00:26:08.640

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Of re shares of retweets the amount of awards, whatever, you know, it's like it's like texting that person community, the story that I worked on them about

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00:26:09.300 --> 00:26:16.170

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And and and you know, kind of like anxiously waiting for their response. Right. You're like, oh man, how did they feel, you know,

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00:26:16.860 --> 00:26:23.250

Walter Thompson-Hernández: How are they going to feel. And I think, you know, but it's tricky, right, because I think as storytellers. The only thing we can guarantee

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00:26:23.760 --> 00:26:36.630

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Is that it's going to be an honest depiction of their lives. Like, that's it. You know, like, the goal is never to sort of like lionize someone or like, you know, nobody's a hero or a villain.

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00:26:36.870 --> 00:26:38.070

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Most time right and

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00:26:38.130 --> 00:26:38.940

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So for me.

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00:26:39.420 --> 00:26:48.540

Walter Thompson-Hernández: With this process like it's knowing that, you know, especially in the book because like the book cover so much more than that 2000 word feature story right like book, you know,

180

00:26:49.320 --> 00:27:07.350

Walter Thompson-Hernández: excavate, you know, violence, violence and death and joy and love, and it's kind of heavy, in some ways, right. So I think for me, you know, the most joy I get is learning that like it was honest and true to their experience and like there's nothing more powerful than saying, Hey, walter

181

00:27:08.460 --> 00:27:09.960

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You got the story right you know

182

00:27:09.990 --> 00:27:24.390

Walter Thompson-Hernández: What that like I'm getting chills right now because like no I'm here because like it's it's that powerful to me. You know, like, that means so much more than like an editor coming back to me and writing. Hey, a great story, you know. No, I don't really care about that. I really know

183

00:27:25.740 --> 00:27:33.870

Tyree Boyd-Pates: You know i i agree because I'm being a museum curator and in having a privilege to be at the auction now and

184

00:27:34.110 --> 00:27:34.740

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Formally here.

185

00:27:34.830 --> 00:27:37.770

Tyree Boyd-Pates: In California, and remember moments.

186

00:27:38.010 --> 00:27:42.690

Tyree Boyd-Pates: When I'm when curating exhibitions about black gospel music in Los Angeles.

187

00:27:43.410 --> 00:27:43.710

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I'm an

188

00:27:45.540 --> 00:27:51.900

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Old an old elder woman visited the exhibition chain saw something. What are the

189

00:27:51.930 --> 00:27:52.380

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Needs in

190

00:27:52.920 --> 00:27:53.460

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The background.

191

00:27:54.720 --> 00:27:59.490

Tyree Boyd-Pates: That she saw herself in the photo and said, You got my church, right, like, you know,

192

00:28:00.660 --> 00:28:11.850

Tyree Boyd-Pates: If those multi day. It's all I it's also centering the curve for the first time in her life and and and the beauty of it is to have to give her flowers. Now, I think.

193

00:28:13.140 --> 00:28:19.410

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It's, it's what you're saying and what I understand my experiences to also share as problem, man.

194

00:28:20.640 --> 00:28:30.000

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And he has we reclaim the stories and we relinquish old ones, right. A lot of people don't know the history about the black question lifestyle.

195

00:28:31.230 --> 00:28:33.900

Tyree Boyd-Pates: For instance, I think it was the Smithsonian that says

196

00:28:36.360 --> 00:28:42.540

Tyree Boyd-Pates: That was that one in for a long cowboys were black through the 1800s.

197

00:28:42.900 --> 00:29:03.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And my curiosity years is that like you, like me, like the story ends and the journalists before us think it was. It's so essential and so vital for us to x, giving the history that coincides with the legacy that the content Campbell is a building off from the policy before that.

198

00:29:03.720 --> 00:29:12.180

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Totally, yeah, that's a great question. I think, I think it's important because, you know, I think we all deserve full and complete histories

199

00:29:13.170 --> 00:29:26.550

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right. I think like at the core of all of this is that, you know, I think what we all deserve to know exactly what happened right and and and i think like that might sound reductive or like simplified, but it's true.

200

00:29:26.850 --> 00:29:27.060

Like

201

00:29:28.740 --> 00:29:29.820

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It's like

202

00:29:29.880 --> 00:29:35.250

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think like we are all deserving to know what exactly happened how it happened and why it happened.

203

00:29:35.820 --> 00:29:44.220

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think like neglecting the experiences of black cowboys, to me, you know, falls within this like, you know, historical lineage of like the ratio. And I think, you know,

204

00:29:44.490 --> 00:29:53.430

Walter Thompson-Hernández: One in four of every cowboys in the West was, in fact, black and like they had such a prominent role in like, you know, the and what exactly happened in the West. Right. And so for me, like,

205

00:29:54.270 --> 00:30:04.110

Walter Thompson-Hernández: No, I'm a history buff like I'm a history nerd. Right. And I think, you know, it was, it's really important to me. And again, like I'm not the first person to document the experience of black cowboy like I'm

206



00:30:04.470 --> 00:30:12.540

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Not, you know, I think there's there's been a few folks and after me, I hope, there'll be more, but I think in terms of the company cowboys. It was like, kind of like

207

00:30:12.930 --> 00:30:26.520

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In a sense, my story to tell because of my relationship to them because of you know the proximity of my life to Compton. So I think the company cowboy story with, like, kind of, I was chosen to tell that story.

208

00:30:26.670 --> 00:30:27.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Right.

209

00:30:27.240 --> 00:30:36.060

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And I think it's really important, I think, like, you know, all the stars kind of aligned and you know it's been really incredible to like place to Compton cowboys.

210

00:30:36.660 --> 00:30:47.610

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In this like really rich and beautiful historical context, while also understanding that, you know, like this story, and that in this book. It's like so much more than a book about cowboys actually

211

00:30:48.060 --> 00:30:56.280

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right. You know, it's actually deeper than that. It's actually about blackness about like, you know what it means to be black. And now what it means to be black right now. And I think that's what I hope people take away from this book.

212

00:30:56.640 --> 00:30:57.750

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah, yeah. When

213

00:30:58.920 --> 00:31:02.130

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I haven't had a relationship and conversation, Randy.

214

00:31:02.970 --> 00:31:14.340

Tyree Boyd-Pates: One of the coffee cowboys he historian his, his desire to make the company cowboys known across the world. Reminds me of the rich legacy of like Bill pick it.

215

00:31:15.120 --> 00:31:28.020

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Up and black cowgirls like Henrietta William Foster and beautiful because companies such a complex place and and you know I was doing some research and preparation for this conversation.

216

00:31:29.070 --> 00:31:37.620

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And have lived there. I know that it says that before World War Two Compton was 95% white

217

00:31:37.680 --> 00:31:38.730

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Men by

218

00:31:39.720 --> 00:31:45.510

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Compton had become 65% African American. And today, even with Asia.

219

00:31:47.040 --> 00:31:47.370

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Asia.

220

00:31:48.600 --> 00:31:49.290

Tyree Boyd-Pates: being mayor.

221

00:31:51.150 --> 00:32:00.390

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Compton is mostly Latinx today and I want. I'm curious to know I may or April brown. By the way, what role does competence racial landscape.

222

00:32:00.420 --> 00:32:03.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Play in the black of questioning myself.

223

00:32:03.210 --> 00:32:04.890

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Particularly for the Cowboys.

224

00:32:05.280 --> 00:32:10.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, yeah, that that's that's really good. You know, I think, you know, it's interesting, I think, you know, content sort of has had these like

225

00:32:11.190 --> 00:32:20.280

Walter Thompson-Hernández: He's like racial flows right of different sort of like demographic groups. You know, it's interesting. A lot of folks don't know that like George Bush even lived in Compton, you know,

226

00:32:20.310 --> 00:32:21.990

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And and and, yes, yes.

227

00:32:23.310 --> 00:32:26.640

Tyree Boyd-Pates: President a sitting president our president lived in Compton.

228

00:32:27.600 --> 00:32:34.830

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like George Bush and his family live like three years and I think like when I was in the research for this book, I was just like, what, like, no way.

229

00:32:35.160 --> 00:32:40.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, no way. But, but it's true. You know, like content, you know, was predominantly white

230

00:32:41.220 --> 00:32:52.500

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And then, you know, the Great Migration happened on like folks from the south really started to move to come in, you know, in for reasons that we're actually tied to agriculture and land and farm right like

231

00:32:53.640 --> 00:33:05.610

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, from Louisiana and Oklahoma. The conference, specifically, so that they can sort of like transplant these like agricultural lifestyles and like lifestyles in Compton right

232

00:33:05.610 --> 00:33:15.480

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And so, you know, when you think about content. It makes sense. It's so spread out. There's, like, you know, land and their space. So it makes sense, right, but I think today. It's interesting you know I think content.

233

00:33:15.990 --> 00:33:23.250

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Is predominantly Latinx. And I think, you know, that's part of what makes this story so much more important, right.

234

00:33:23.880 --> 00:33:29.190

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And it's kind of like it's it's interesting, right, because, like, on one hand, like it makes you really think about how

235

00:33:29.430 --> 00:33:38.730

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Black folks have continued to be displaced right like from from cities and places. So it's kind of like there's melancholy there right and and deep sadness about like

236

00:33:39.090 --> 00:33:46.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know how it's like oh like folks were essentially, you know, moved from the south for like safety and protection and opportunity.

237

00:33:47.310 --> 00:33:54.450

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And now we're kind of seeing that again. Right. So, it speaks to that and it speaks to the sort of like wave wave that like black folks have

238

00:33:54.930 --> 00:34:02.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: As you know, move to live and survive and to experience joy and to live their lives. And it also speaks to you know, um, you know,

239

00:34:03.420 --> 00:34:08.640

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Migration and and and and the way that like migration is also tied to like the human experience right so

240

00:34:09.360 --> 00:34:25.440

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In terms of like right ratio experiences. You know, it's interesting because we also have to be honest right like like black and brown folks in Los Angeles. You know, it's a it's a complicated. You know, storing relationship, you know, like I'm not like father and Mexican mother myself.

241

00:34:26.010 --> 00:34:30.690

Walter Thompson-Hernández: For me it's like that's always kind of been at the heart of what I do, if not sort of like

242

00:34:31.140 --> 00:34:38.310

Walter Thompson-Hernández: sensationalize that experience, but like approach it with like honesty and I think, you know, there have been racial tensions, a constant throughout time, you know,

243

00:34:39.060 --> 00:34:50.310

Walter Thompson-Hernández: tensions that that that I experienced in writing this book and document in this book, but at the same time there's like something so special. I think about what happens in the Richmond farms, right.

244

00:34:50.520 --> 00:34:56.880

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like in in in the region farm, which is like where you know horse riders live in Compton.

245

00:34:57.270 --> 00:34:57.450

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And

246

00:34:57.540 --> 00:35:11.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, it's still filled with like black and brown families who start to question culture, who own horses and so my experience was this right is that you know what happens outside of the farms is not necessarily what happened in the farms.

247

00:35:11.490 --> 00:35:13.560

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It's like, not really, like, like, like the

248

00:35:13.560 --> 00:35:16.440

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Power of these horses really brings black and brown folks together.

249

00:35:16.680 --> 00:35:23.430

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In ways that like are astounding. You know, it's in, and I'm not exaggerating, like I

250

00:35:23.490 --> 00:35:23.850

Thought

251

00:35:26.010 --> 00:35:31.680

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I really mean that. You know, it's like there's this like beautiful connection foster through like a sheer love of horses.

252

00:35:32.790 --> 00:35:40.260

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Of land, you know, and that's something that to me was I really inspiring and also speaks to Randy who he spoke about earlier, you know,

253

00:35:40.740 --> 00:35:47.250

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Who's now the leader of the content cowboys like it's all mission is predicated on on on acknowledging that

254

00:35:47.850 --> 00:36:01.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: That the horse ranches special beautiful and to see that, you know, to find ways to replicate that model across the US. Right. Like, like he he said all the time. He's like, we've tried everything else. We haven't tried horse ranches in the hood.

255

00:36:08.730 --> 00:36:12.750

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, like rated on a point like we're laughing because, you know, it's incredible actually

256

00:36:12.750 --> 00:36:13.080

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Right.

257

00:36:13.230 --> 00:36:15.390

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It's true, what is true, like

258

00:36:15.450 --> 00:36:16.260

Walter Thompson-Hernández: He's not mine.

259

00:36:19.200 --> 00:36:21.000

Tyree Boyd-Pates: That's true. The last thing we've tried

260

00:36:22.770 --> 00:36:27.390

Tyree Boyd-Pates: In our in our hoods in our in, you know, throughout the city is horses. I

261

00:36:27.690 --> 00:36:28.440

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Haven't done it.

262

00:36:28.530 --> 00:36:31.110

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We haven't done it. And I think there's still a value add to that.

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00:36:31.140 --> 00:36:45.150

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I think there's there's still there's still a deep opportunity. It's it reminds me to have just like the history of of Los Angeles as a whole because I know you're familiar with, like, the most popular thought is like original settlers.

264

00:36:45.180 --> 00:36:58.500

Tyree Boyd-Pates: novelists and we're black and brown folks who were what they were on horses coming in right coming into to start and settle and establish Los Angeles. So it's it

265

00:36:59.010 --> 00:37:06.930

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I would be remiss not to bring that up but also I also have the story and see deep connections that I think can be teased down. Hopefully one day in an exhibition, who knows.

266

00:37:06.990 --> 00:37:08.220

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, for sure, that'd be great.

267

00:37:09.570 --> 00:37:16.830

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But, but I'll give it back to Compton, you know you you as you're rewriting this narrative alongside the content cowboys.

268

00:37:17.790 --> 00:37:39.270

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Do. There's also a narrative that has been globalized about Compton, and at the hands of the most genius artists of our time. And of course, I argue and so does the rock. Roll Hall of Fame like NWA and Dr. Dre and Pulitzer Pulitzer Prize winning Kendrick Lamar.

269

00:37:39.510 --> 00:37:55.200

Tyree Boyd-Pates: All Out of Compton. How important is music to the black equestrian lifestyle, ie the constant cowboys in that in the city and what what was musical inspiration for you, writing the book.

270

00:37:55.500 --> 00:37:56.040

Oh, man.

271

00:37:57.180 --> 00:37:58.500

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Thanks for bringing up Kendrick like

272

00:37:59.820 --> 00:38:00.480

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like I just

273

00:38:01.740 --> 00:38:04.140

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Any opportunity to talk about Kendrick I'm just very

274

00:38:05.340 --> 00:38:05.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Much

275

00:38:05.850 --> 00:38:07.710

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So I can be about Kendrick is

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00:38:08.010 --> 00:38:09.810

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Seriously, but

277

00:38:09.990 --> 00:38:11.250

Walter Thompson-Hernández: But, but, no, you know, I think, like,

278

00:38:11.280 --> 00:38:17.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, if we're talking about my contents like really rich musical for like soundscape we have to talk about NWA

279

00:38:18.030 --> 00:38:32.550

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And you know Bretton Woods. Right. Or like, like all these other folks who could come on account but Kendrick to me. You know, like his album. Okay. My city it was honestly the model for this book right

280

00:38:33.720 --> 00:38:40.380

Walter Thompson-Hernández: No, no, really, in writing about in writing and writing this book and thinking about this book, like I listened to his album.

281

00:38:41.220 --> 00:38:46.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right. Like, like my my references weren't other text. It was music essentially

282

00:38:46.830 --> 00:38:48.420

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It was a response to his music.

283

00:38:48.720 --> 00:38:50.760

Walter Thompson-Hernández: That. And you know what, like

284

00:38:51.210 --> 00:38:58.620

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I'd be lying to you if I would tell you that my goal was to make the book version of that album, you know, and, you know, if you read

285

00:38:59.640 --> 00:39:00.300

Tyree Boyd-Pates: That's fine.

286

00:39:02.010 --> 00:39:08.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: This is is considered widely. It's a classic like one of the most important albums in the last decade, right.

287

00:39:08.970 --> 00:39:14.310

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So you're saying that this book is an answer or your, your answer to that.

288

00:39:14.520 --> 00:39:14.940

To that

289

00:39:16.200 --> 00:39:22.320

Walter Thompson-Hernández: No 100% because again, everything about it. You know, like that album for like those that haven't listened to it. Like there's like such

290

00:39:22.860 --> 00:39:38.130

Walter Thompson-Hernández: A moving and profound narrative arc to that album, there's like character development. There's like tension, there's conflict. There's, like, you know, like there's so much going on the album that like it doesn't read like an album like it reads like like like I

291

00:39:39.420 --> 00:39:44.940

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Know, right. Like, like, like, like, like something that like like James Baldwin, or like Toni Morrison wrote right

292

00:39:46.350 --> 00:39:56.100

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It is so perfect and so valuable. So for me, I was like okay you know how I feel. Listen, listen to that album is how when I feel when I write this book principle, um,

293

00:39:56.760 --> 00:40:07.110

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It was such an important part of the experience like I, you know, especially a song sing about me. I'm dying of thirst to me is like one of the most like moving



294

00:40:08.130 --> 00:40:17.100

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Musical experiences I've ever had in my life and and you know when I was thinking about the company cowboys like they're essentially good kids in the city, you know,

295

00:40:17.400 --> 00:40:17.880

Tyree Boyd-Pates: They got

296

00:40:17.940 --> 00:40:18.630

Walter Thompson-Hernández: They are

297

00:40:18.750 --> 00:40:19.740

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We go. We got

298

00:40:19.830 --> 00:40:25.740

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It, you know, they are good kids in the city and like spending more time with them, you know, just just help me understand that, you know, like

299

00:40:26.460 --> 00:40:33.630

Walter Thompson-Hernández: We are all in some ways like products of our environment, you know, and you know, some of them are evolving games, you know,

300

00:40:34.080 --> 00:40:43.800

Walter Thompson-Hernández: prison time all that, you know, complicated stuff. But I think like at the end of the day, they're all good kids in a mess city and and and ultimately I was too. And, you know,

301

00:40:43.890 --> 00:40:44.340

And so

302

00:40:47.430 --> 00:40:47.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Exactly.

303

00:40:48.300 --> 00:41:02.070

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So it's like you know music was like such a big part of the experience and especially kindness music, you know, and I'd argue that that Kendrick Lamar is not just my favorite musician. He's my favorite writer as well and and I'm hoping the book shows

304

00:41:02.760 --> 00:41:19.590

Tyree Boyd-Pates: If it's if it's not surprising that I'm your, your book is as a response to that album and then you can see the direct like literary

parallels because literally the Pulitzer Prize winning saw the same thing in his music.

305

00:41:19.950 --> 00:41:23.190

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Or two before his latest his most recent efforts.

306

00:41:24.150 --> 00:41:40.800

Tyree Boyd-Pates: is profound. Because as you as we situate this the the racial landscape. The, the musical soundscape it also reminds me of just like the political landscape that Compton is always had, particularly in in this moment.

307

00:41:42.120 --> 00:41:48.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I'm not mistaken, and having, you know, close proximity to your work as well as that city.

308

00:41:49.050 --> 00:41:58.530

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The city of Compton, and the counting cowboys actually were involved in a major peace rally that were on horseback through out the City of God.

309

00:41:59.370 --> 00:42:16.260

Tyree Boyd-Pates: To share about that day when the value, it adds to the movement for black lives in the larger protest for in solidarity, their with their up and just the joy that it brought the community because I thought your, your recent

310

00:42:17.220 --> 00:42:20.760

Tyree Boyd-Pates: article in The Times documenting that was like too good to to not share this

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00:42:21.330 --> 00:42:21.900

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Appreciate you

312

00:42:23.070 --> 00:42:34.860

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Know it. It was like such a profound experience for me. I'm like, had been a while since I've been back on the ranch. Right. So when like Randy calls me and tells me that they're organizing, you know, like

313

00:42:35.340 --> 00:42:47.310

Walter Thompson-Hernández: A ride for peace, essentially, you know, a Roger black lives. I thought that was so profound and moving because like that hasn't happened before. Right. You know, in a sense of like, you know, it's interesting because, you know, like

314

00:42:49.200 --> 00:42:56.040

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Throughout history, right, like you know cavalry's are like horses like usually lead the way, essentially.

315

00:42:57.900 --> 00:43:05.820

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And so for me, like seeing the company cowboys lead this march was this sofa and moving and it was also really, really important because I usually

316

00:43:06.270 --> 00:43:15.480

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Again to throughout throughout time in history. Mounted Police, you know, mounted police units have usually been on the other side of like peaceful demonstrators.

317

00:43:15.540 --> 00:43:25.050

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right, and so there was something. So I think moving about seeing black men and women on horses sort of on the opposite side of

318

00:43:25.710 --> 00:43:33.450

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like Mounted Police, you know, and you know it was essentially like a way, I think it was really political, it was a way to to reclaim not just space, but to reclaim

319

00:43:33.900 --> 00:43:39.810

Walter Thompson-Hernández: The idea of the impact of horses right like like horses have been used to like essentially

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00:43:40.710 --> 00:43:49.710

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And that power to like articulate control over groups of people not only black and brown people usually in here you have black men and women from

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00:43:50.040 --> 00:43:59.040

Walter Thompson-Hernández: All over Southern California joining together come together and like leading a peaceful march for black lives like I have to be there and I kind of had to write that story.

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00:43:59.520 --> 00:44:09.990

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And and it was like such a profound experience but also like again like letting us know that the black cowboy and Congo experience is not just a story tied to the history

323

00:44:10.470 --> 00:44:18.270

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right. It's also a very sort of like contemporary, you know, modern day story and you know it's it's sort of by everything for me full circle.

324

00:44:19.920 --> 00:44:23.490

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Can you share about the joy on the faces of the community where they saw

325

00:44:23.670 --> 00:44:24.720

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Oh, yeah, yeah.

326

00:44:25.860 --> 00:44:27.180

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I agree with you wholeheartedly.

327

00:44:27.600 --> 00:44:37.320

Tyree Boyd-Pates: On it sounds almost very futuristic as well, like a reclamation of reclaiming of history, but also advancing a future. So, but I would love to know about the joy.

328

00:44:38.220 --> 00:44:42.240

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Because you talk a lot about the joy that just them on horseback meets the community.

329

00:44:42.870 --> 00:44:47.940

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, you know, like, it means so much. I think, I think, like, you know,

330

00:44:48.390 --> 00:44:54.810

Walter Thompson-Hernández: People have this, there's a sort of like mythology around horses right and a sort of like mysticism. It's like

331

00:44:55.110 --> 00:45:10.230

Walter Thompson-Hernández: We know about horses. But we don't know everything about horses, and I think, you know, when people see horses. There's almost this like this instant gratification dislike vulnerability that's expressed in like even like the most hardened adults.

332

00:45:10.410 --> 00:45:12.030

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah, it's almost like it was

333

00:45:12.600 --> 00:45:13.050

It.

334

00:45:14.250 --> 00:45:22.500

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Was the horses, especially you know at that peaceful march like everyone was like, remember who they were as children.

335

00:45:23.100 --> 00:45:32.550

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And and people were reminded of, like, you know, this like really like I think like beautiful energy and spirit about them and the energy was just really incredible that day because like

336

00:45:32.910 --> 00:45:45.150

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You had these animals who are leading the way in ways that reminded us of like this like purity that that we experienced with children right like long before we knew what systemic racism was right.

337

00:45:45.210 --> 00:45:45.930

Or I

338

00:45:47.580 --> 00:45:54.480

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Would have it like really beautiful like profound and like perceptive and really intelligent animals who who were there.

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00:45:55.500 --> 00:45:56.970

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And it was really impacted right

340

00:45:57.000 --> 00:45:58.860

Tyree Boyd-Pates: They were almost in solidarity with us as well.

341

00:45:59.160 --> 00:46:00.510

Walter Thompson-Hernández: What I'd have to say, yeah.

342

00:46:00.750 --> 00:46:05.040

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Which is which is which is such a powerful note, man. We have a we have about

343

00:46:07.740 --> 00:46:16.470

Tyree Boyd-Pates: About five more minutes of questions before we take our friends questions in the Q AMP a. So, this is also an opportunity for anyone who's looking in to feel free to

344

00:46:17.550 --> 00:46:20.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Share your questions within zoom chat.

345

00:46:21.720 --> 00:46:23.880

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But before we get out of the way.

346

00:46:25.800 --> 00:46:38.760

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I love to ask you about the future, right, like what what's next, what's next for you. What's next for the Cowboys. How can we advance the topic of black cowboy tradition today. Let's start off with that whichever one you want to start with, let me know.

347

00:46:39.390 --> 00:46:50.010

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, I'll do both. It's, it's, I think that the company cowboys are are still taking donations. Like there's, you know, depending what kind of bike halted there they're thriving youth program.

348

00:46:50.880 --> 00:46:58.560

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Which really two things am I think they're like slowly opening up the ranch again for, like, you know, like social distant rides. Right.

349

00:46:58.620 --> 00:46:58.830

Right.

350

00:47:01.110 --> 00:47:01.980

Tyree Boyd-Pates: That sounds like an article

351

00:47:03.810 --> 00:47:15.840

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Recently, and I said, yeah, so they're doing that, um, you know, they're also like, you know, in sort of like brand campaigns and like modeling attack the company that's really exciting.

352

00:47:16.980 --> 00:47:21.180

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, like I said earlier, like when I signed. It's like book. Do we also find a film. Do you know

353

00:47:22.050 --> 00:47:22.350

What

354

00:47:23.370 --> 00:47:25.170

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Your graduation. Congratulations.

355

00:47:25.290 --> 00:47:27.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I think that's huge. That's huge.

356

00:47:27.180 --> 00:47:36.150

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So big so search like pictures like bought the book and like that, you know, production is the mother star petition for the film.

357

00:47:36.510 --> 00:47:49.020

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So it's really great because like you know the Cowboys are involved in that process. And, you know, you know, it's been really cool because like both the cowboys and I, you know, sort of were involved in both the book deal and film do

358

00:47:49.800 --> 00:47:54.810

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It with me is really great, right, because like very rarely I think do like authors have the opportunity of

359

00:47:55.320 --> 00:48:05.070

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Of not just working with like the people who they're documenting but also like come into financial agreements, right, which is like, you know, and to be transparent, like most of the proceeds go back to the ranch. Right.

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00:48:06.390 --> 00:48:06.720

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So,

361

00:48:07.920 --> 00:48:09.690

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, yeah, it's up. So that's happening where I'm really

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00:48:09.690 --> 00:48:17.670

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Excited about that for me personally, I have like an NPR podcast right now. It's called, it's called California Love it.

363

00:48:18.360 --> 00:48:19.470

Tyree Boyd-Pates: was fantastic.

364

00:48:19.650 --> 00:48:25.650

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Thank you. Thank you, came up weeks ago. I'm transitioning out of journalism more to that TV and film space.

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00:48:27.330 --> 00:48:28.080

Walter Thompson-Hernández: So I'm excited about.

366

00:48:28.710 --> 00:48:30.690

Tyree Boyd-Pates: I see a very bright future of the

367

00:48:31.860 --> 00:48:35.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Specs favor your career. Yeah, that's happening. Also like

368

00:48:35.880 --> 00:48:40.890

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Signing to another book the offer, like a memoir type book about my mom and nine about LA.

369

00:48:41.550 --> 00:48:42.000

Casting

370

00:48:43.200 --> 00:48:46.200

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Fantastic. You're going to be busy for a while.

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00:48:46.410 --> 00:48:55.860

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yeah, they're gonna be busy and I'm really excited to hear about all of these tremendous opportunities, not only from you.

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00:48:56.850 --> 00:49:08.820

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But also the company calculates and how it's going to be able to amplify their stories in a way in which they I'm sure they could have only dreamed of. But it's also providing them equity into the conversation.

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00:49:08.970 --> 00:49:21.750

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So they can be better for it later on after after it's all said and done that's vital with special you're sharing stories because so rarely do we have an

374

00:49:22.620 --> 00:49:36.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Are we involved in those processes, especially as it becomes commercial so kudos to you on that front but also kudos G one, all of these endeavors. I think it's, it's a quite special. One more question for you. Before we get out of the way.

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00:49:37.590 --> 00:49:57.990

Tyree Boyd-Pates: What is we're both millennial so we have to ask the social media question. Can you can you round out like what impact or what influences social media have and helping you craft a story, helping them get their narrative out and what what's the value add of social media in in really amplifying

376

00:49:59.400 --> 00:50:01.710

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Community histories in real time.

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00:50:02.250 --> 00:50:11.070

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, yeah. I think it's really important. Right. I think like, what's different about amplifying these like stories and community histories. Now, is that like now.

378

00:50:11.460 --> 00:50:17.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: We have the access and the ability to like tell a story in a way that's almost like instantaneous. You know, like

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00:50:17.850 --> 00:50:29.070

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I could post something on Instagram, like a photo, followed by mom descriptive caption in ways that like you know will will will reach you know a lot of different people and audiences around the world.

380



00:50:29.460 --> 00:50:37.560

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And so the content cowboys have been really sort of a keen and really great and like spreading their message through through social media and I think for our generation, you know,

381

00:50:38.460 --> 00:50:46.500

Walter Thompson-Hernández: What we're really aware of the power of social media. I think social media sometimes like can be negative and can be a lot and you know

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00:50:46.950 --> 00:50:54.030

Walter Thompson-Hernández: There's a lot of things on social media that don't make sense or strange or weird, but there's also something really beautiful about being able to connect and also to like

383

00:50:54.420 --> 00:51:08.460

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, think about how we can also to tell our stories now right and and there aren't necessarily big gatekeepers that existed before, you know, and I think for for my score for for what I do. It's really important to share that and as over the counter cowboys.

384

00:51:10.080 --> 00:51:16.620

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Man. Well, thank you for this powerful conversation and I know this is just one of many that will be

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00:51:18.150 --> 00:51:21.240

Tyree Boyd-Pates: On this book, but on future future

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00:51:22.350 --> 00:51:24.660

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Projects that you're going to be doing. So I can't wait.

387

00:51:25.140 --> 00:51:39.810

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But I also want to, you know, also give room for everyone else to ask you some questions. So let's answer some of those questions for my guests. And again, if you have questions, please add them to the Q AMP a box and we'll do so until the end of the hour, so, so, so far we have three

388

00:51:41.220 --> 00:51:50.670

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So I'm going to start off and answer live so question. This one is question from all over. This is a new function, could you

389

00:51:51.420 --> 00:52:05.430

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Live, could you say something about the men in the photos behind the both of you. What year were those photos taken UK timber. Oh, that's a, that's a great question. K. This didactic behind us is in the

390

00:52:05.460 --> 00:52:07.140

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Artery on on the lower level.

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00:52:07.950 --> 00:52:09.690

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And though many of those gentleman's names.

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00:52:09.750 --> 00:52:10.500

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Are not known.

393

00:52:11.010 --> 00:52:22.590

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But it is meant to again complicate the representations of homework cowboys and how the West with seen at that time. And so if you'd like to free

394

00:52:23.190 --> 00:52:31.530

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We'd love to provide more context about that even book recommendations on because I'm currently working on some projects that deal with the Black Catholic tradition.

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00:52:31.770 --> 00:52:41.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And you can find my email and or gets in contact with me on the arteries at the author's website. So thank you. Okay, um, let me get another one. So we have one

396

00:52:42.270 --> 00:52:51.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Question for both of us. So, Walter, what is the underlying message that you see this book, giving younger and older generations. Please don't want to give you the full

397

00:52:54.090 --> 00:53:01.230

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I think this book. I hope I'm just like, help shed more light on the experiences of

398

00:53:02.850 --> 00:53:11.730

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Black men, right, like in a place I constantly think like most of the work that I do really like centers on this question about belonging. Right. And I think for me.

399

00:53:12.180 --> 00:53:18.330

Walter Thompson-Hernández: It's like that's like such a common thread and all the products that I do. And so for the book. You know, like it's really a book about

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00:53:18.900 --> 00:53:20.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: A group of childhood friends.

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00:53:20.400 --> 00:53:25.950

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right, who both feel like they belong to something and don't belong. And so I hope like

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00:53:27.810 --> 00:53:40.740

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like the book and can shed light on on on how sort of like, you know, in this case, this model, right, a horse ranch can can create this like really really sort of intricate world and universe of belonging in a place like

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00:53:42.660 --> 00:53:53.280

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Agree. I think with this, with this story. This book this narrative does for younger generations expand their horizons at

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00:53:54.420 --> 00:54:04.440

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Further investigating their own identity and whether that is on flood or on horseback, they can do that and they're the barriers that are often afforded

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00:54:05.250 --> 00:54:18.300

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Black and Brown youth and urban centers don't have to limit their expressions of themselves, or at least the investigation there. So that's what I think your work does really effectively in allowing them to see themselves on horseback.

406

00:54:19.980 --> 00:54:21.420

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So we got some more question.

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00:54:22.440 --> 00:54:31.080

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Was their challenges for you growing up as a mixed race, young man, and being accepted, feel free to feel free to feel that if you'd like.

408

00:54:32.040 --> 00:54:43.200

Walter Thompson-Hernández: 100% like I mean like if you grew up in LA, right, like the sort of black and brown experience like it's always going to be interesting and complicated and I think for me, like,

409

00:54:44.850 --> 00:54:48.840

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I look like my Black Sabbath know me so interesting to like

410

00:54:48.900 --> 00:54:59.610

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Sort of like craft. It's like identity of blackness guide to the experiences of my friends and their families. Right, so it was it was it was challenging at times and you know like growing up in

411

00:55:00.150 --> 00:55:07.140

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Elementary school like there's going to be like I experienced race riots right and racial conflicts and like, that was really hard attendance. And I think as

412

00:55:07.680 --> 00:55:14.310

Walter Thompson-Hernández: As a, as a young person, it's hard to like contextualize that you know we don't know what's going on. But I think as an adult, you realize that

413

00:55:14.760 --> 00:55:26.040

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You know, there's like systems that play that that that have been trying to people like him out of the gates each other. So it's like easier to process, but we're still hard to to understand

414

00:55:27.510 --> 00:55:28.800

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Well, said well said. Thank you.

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00:55:31.980 --> 00:55:33.030

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Another question we have is,

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00:55:33.450 --> 00:55:37.830

Tyree Boyd-Pates: What is the origin of the word cowboy. I have an answer if you if you haven't answered as well.

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00:55:38.880 --> 00:55:39.870

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I love to hear you. Yes.

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00:55:40.080 --> 00:55:45.270

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Sir, Sir. SIR, SIR. So I'm currently I'm investigating and doing a lot of research on

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00:55:46.290 --> 00:55:57.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The possibility of future exhibitions that deal with the black cowboy tradition in the American Western as I've been diving into very cursory as of late because of extenuating

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00:55:57.780 --> 00:56:13.740

Tyree Boyd-Pates: extenuating circumstances. I've learned and excited to share broadly that the word cowboy was attributing mostly to black men in black men who were enslaved and forced to do all of the manual

421

00:56:13.740 --> 00:56:18.420

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Labor on the farm in the range and on the plantation dealing directly

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00:56:18.570 --> 00:56:28.050

Tyree Boyd-Pates: With cows and horses and and other cattle and it's so interesting because we we provide such a dignified view of

423

00:56:28.260 --> 00:56:41.250

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The of the phrase cowboy. But if it was so dignified in history that the word boy, which is a negative has a negative connotation would have never been attributed so it only underscores that

424

00:56:41.280 --> 00:56:52.920

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The original cowboys work. In fact, who we lionize today, as you know, as these individuals, but in fact they were probably more brown than they were at the dominant group and so hence

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00:56:52.980 --> 00:56:56.970

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The term cowboy and the proximity to labor for black people.

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00:56:57.000 --> 00:57:00.360

Tyree Boyd-Pates: In this country so exciting to share those nuances and bring

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00:57:00.390 --> 00:57:06.510

Tyree Boyd-Pates: It to the court. So, and it's no I'd be remiss to not bring upon the company cowboys.

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00:57:06.720 --> 00:57:09.330

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Are reclaiming that and giving agency.

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00:57:09.810 --> 00:57:22.530

Tyree Boyd-Pates: To the phrase and the term as a whole. We got one more question for us. I'm seeing cowboys show up this summer at the protests in the smiles and activities triggered me to think about the region and its roots.

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00:57:22.800 --> 00:57:30.000

Tyree Boyd-Pates: This conversation and agricultural his heritage of Compton reminded me of the closing a South Central farm 15 years ago. And then last year.

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00:57:30.900 --> 00:57:34.230

Tyree Boyd-Pates: The individual learned about the vertical farming project and competent

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00:57:34.590 --> 00:57:46.590

Tyree Boyd-Pates: What are your thoughts about the future opportunities for inner city residents to return to their communities. Agrarian roots but trust

against tech industry investors and venture capital. It's a hell of a question so

433

00:57:49.320 --> 00:58:08.460

Walter Thompson-Hernández: That that's like such an important question. It's important because I think like there's something political about the way that like structural racism right has like really like tried to remove us from our agrarian roots. Right. Like, like if you are a black urban personally

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00:58:09.510 --> 00:58:23.670

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I'm kind of on the land. Okay, so, so like there's something political and structural about like about a system that is trying to remove us from from from from what we have known for generations, and thousands of years.

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00:58:23.880 --> 00:58:24.750

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Right, so

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00:58:25.110 --> 00:58:32.820

Walter Thompson-Hernández: My. It's my hope you know that that a book like this can can sort of like underscore the importance of like animals and my end and agriculture.

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00:58:33.300 --> 00:58:37.560

Walter Thompson-Hernández: In the experience of of like black and brown folks, not just in Los Angeles, but everywhere right so

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00:58:38.100 --> 00:58:43.980

Walter Thompson-Hernández: If this book can like sort of push that conversation forward about like how we can sort of like React sense

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00:58:44.700 --> 00:58:54.780

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Land and space and and vegetables and unhealthy foods for our communities. I think like it's it's a success, right, but um yeah that's

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00:58:55.140 --> 00:59:04.410

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Such an important question especially right now. You know, like Los Angeles has continued to be gentrified like you know all these like tech developments are really in some ways, kind of

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00:59:05.550 --> 00:59:09.540

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Like furthering us from from from faces and lands that we

442

00:59:10.680 --> 00:59:10.830

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Need

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00:59:11.430 --> 00:59:23.100

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Right, right. Very true. Um, they will set as well. And I think there are grassroots movements that are building in order to circumvent those things from happening.

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00:59:23.130 --> 00:59:27.720

Tyree Boyd-Pates: From a very popular digital. So I'm going, I think your work supports and

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00:59:27.720 --> 00:59:29.400

Tyree Boyd-Pates: broadens their desires and

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00:59:29.550 --> 00:59:32.130

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Largely their demands to make sure that equity is had

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00:59:32.370 --> 00:59:32.760

Walter Thompson-Hernández: From that

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00:59:33.270 --> 00:59:34.800

Tyree Boyd-Pates: With those companies, I'm

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00:59:35.580 --> 00:59:36.300

Tyree Boyd-Pates: More questions.

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00:59:37.470 --> 00:59:38.880

Tyree Boyd-Pates: How do you see

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00:59:39.960 --> 00:59:41.550

Tyree Boyd-Pates: How do you see the museum.

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00:59:41.550 --> 00:59:42.900

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Experience make an impact.

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00:59:43.320 --> 00:59:49.470

Tyree Boyd-Pates: On diversity in the west and exploring stories of our culture. Do you see the same experience making an impact on diversity in the

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00:59:49.470 --> 00:59:51.780

Tyree Boyd-Pates: West explore the stories of culture, please feel free to

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00:59:51.780 --> 00:59:53.220

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Take that I have an answer as well.

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00:59:53.460 --> 00:59:54.510

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Yeah, um,

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00:59:55.200 --> 00:59:59.850

Walter Thompson-Hernández: And I think like the work that you're doing to me. It's important, right. Like I feel like

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01:00:02.340 --> 01:00:11.280

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Diversify these museum experiences is is is is like part of the process that that needs to happen like right like you need people quote from these communities.

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01:00:11.580 --> 01:00:16.830

Walter Thompson-Hernández: You need folks who who have a stake in these communities because like it's not enough to like

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01:00:17.190 --> 01:00:29.370

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Just like say want to do things, but like the work has to be done and I feel like, you know, that's why I admire your work so much. It's like, you like really extend them out what you believe in, and there's like a lot of steaks.

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01:00:29.910 --> 01:00:39.390

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Yes, thank you, brother. I appreciate that. And I, I feel the same way about you. Um, I think in this moment, and why it was so

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01:00:40.110 --> 01:00:44.970

Tyree Boyd-Pates: advantageous to join the ranks of the archery was because I think the

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01:00:45.000 --> 01:00:54.780

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Archery is again like they're complicating in wanting to wrinkle the perceptions of what the American West is and given my contributions to the canon.

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01:00:55.170 --> 01:01:01.380

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Formerly a cam. It was a natural or organic next step to assist in that

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01:01:01.800 --> 01:01:15.750

Tyree Boyd-Pates: In bringing abroad in Europe broadening out the perceptions of what the American West is particularly the black experience because there's so much that the academy knows, but there's so little that the general public knows

466

01:01:16.050 --> 01:01:16.710



Tyree Boyd-Pates: And I

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01:01:16.800 --> 01:01:22.950

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Want to be a interlocutor. This is very similar to what you do so so masterfully with your

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01:01:23.220 --> 01:01:36.060

Tyree Boyd-Pates: With articles and your media. It's just like maybe using the gallery walls to disrupt some of those interpretations about us this entire time. So it's, it's very much an opportunity to do the same work alongside you.

469

01:01:36.600 --> 01:01:50.040

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Um I we have one more. And I think then after this will close. Can you speak to other films or projects that demonstrate or misinterpret the actual black cowboy experience I have an answer. You can have an answer, feel free.

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01:01:51.060 --> 01:01:52.170

Walter Thompson-Hernández: I love to hear your answer.

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01:01:52.500 --> 01:01:57.600

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Oh, sure. Um, well, a colleague of mine by the name of Josh

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01:01:59.130 --> 01:02:07.170

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Joshua Garrett, he is doing some really great work and has been doing some really great work at the archery, and he has this series called

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01:02:07.260 --> 01:02:08.190

Tyree Boyd-Pates: This is a Western

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01:02:08.520 --> 01:02:14.430

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And what he does is he takes films and he he put them under a microscope.

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01:02:14.520 --> 01:02:23.460

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Microscope. And He investigates and interrogates whether what makes them a Western or at least falls into this and he has a future exhibition under the same thing and

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01:02:24.120 --> 01:02:31.710

Tyree Boyd-Pates: having conversations with him has brought in my perceptions of how like Star Wars is actually a West confirm and George Lucas, the secretary thing.

477

01:02:32.430 --> 01:02:45.870

Tyree Boyd-Pates: But also have boys in the hood is a Western actually that set of the West, but also deals a lot with the scene tropes that we've seen Gene Autry are or other figures like the like other Western fins deal with

478

01:02:46.770 --> 01:02:47.430

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So I'm

479

01:02:47.670 --> 01:02:51.480

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Doing some some digging because even django is a Western

480

01:02:52.110 --> 01:02:52.710

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And and

481

01:02:52.770 --> 01:03:04.200

Tyree Boyd-Pates: All these films in through Josh Reich is helping me to reclaim some of those narratives and also provided a fresher, Lance. So that's just it in a nutshell. Um,

482

01:03:05.250 --> 01:03:05.760

Tyree Boyd-Pates: So I

483

01:03:06.270 --> 01:03:10.140

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Want to give you the last word. Do you have any parting words for us.

484

01:03:12.270 --> 01:03:15.090

Tyree Boyd-Pates: And for our, our, our time together today.

485

01:03:15.120 --> 01:03:22.410

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Well, not a lot you know just like thank you for this opportunity to do like such a really incredible conversation.

486

01:03:23.940 --> 01:03:31.470

Walter Thompson-Hernández: Thank you, Ted, to the Aussie for having this this talk, I feel like it's it's one that I would have preferred to have in person, you know,

487

01:03:35.280 --> 01:03:36.840

Walter Thompson-Hernández: We're all doing our best now so

488

01:03:38.160 --> 01:03:44.910

Tyree Boyd-Pates: No, no, I, I like the Autry say that we are so excited about the work that you're doing.

489

01:03:45.420 --> 01:03:55.470

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We're so excited that we were able to partner today and continue to amplify this great work and that you've been doing at the intersection and community in Journalism and Media and

490

01:03:55.890 --> 01:04:10.200

Tyree Boyd-Pates: We came out late to collaborate on other projects together and just thank you for joining us today for the artists salon. And again, thank you all who are on the zoom call we wish we could have been with you all.

491

01:04:10.230 --> 01:04:14.460

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Physically in the galleries, but we still thinking for taking time

492

01:04:14.700 --> 01:04:25.140

Tyree Boyd-Pates: To more on the content cowboys and so that's all from us today Tyree boy Pete's signing off Associate Curator of the attorney and until then. Until next time.

493

01:04:25.320 --> 01:04:26.310

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Y'all have a great day.

494

01:04:27.870 --> 01:04:28.620

Tyree Boyd-Pates: Thank you all to

495

01:04:28.860 --> 01:04:29.160

Me.