

## Thanksgiving Card 2023 Video 2: On poem 'Frontier'

### TRANSCRIPT

So the main card for Thanksgiving this year was very much inspired by the city in which I'm standing right now - and sometimes yelling over the background noise of the traffic here - Los Angeles.

#### **Where You At Exactly?**

Sweetzer, which happens to be the street where this poem was written. I'm not gonna give the exact address, because, for privacy reasons. But those who know, know. And thank you for the cherry-red desk to those who know.

#### **There's Just Something About L.A.**

I've traveled a lot in my years and, yeah, never found anywhere else quite what I find here in Los Angeles. And so I wanted to capture that in a poem. Having spent most of the pandemic elsewhere and reconnecting with the city that I love so much this year, that felt apt. But I also wanted to fold into the poem... to recognize and acknowledge that Los Angeles has its difficulties as well. It's a difficult experience for many people who live here. It has its tough side. I write a little bit about that tough side in the essay accompanying this video.

#### **On Capturing L.A. In Art**

So one of the artists I most admire and have done for most of my life - and, arguably, my admiration for him pulled me over to Los Angeles from New York in the first place - is David Lynch.

He sort of nails that particular combination of beauty and, let's be honest, ugliness in this city in a way that I'm constantly striving to emulate in my own work. There is something about this city that despite all of the hardships and all of the terrible scenes you can witness just walking through it, there are redemptive flickers among them, all the same.

So kindness between people who really have no reason to be kind to each other in a city where it's almost designed to foster kind of competitiveness at best and hostility at worst

between people. Kindness when it appears here is always kind of a small miracle that feels both inevitable and right all the same. And yeah, I dunno that I'll ever crack exactly what it is. But, yeah, I recommend David Lynch, particularly Mulholland Drive.

### **Los Angeles, The City Of Contrasts**

It's natural beauty with a freeway running through it. It's Griffith Park, which has a literal freeway running through it. And it's flowers wilting in smog. It a city of painful but honest contrasts.

I'm always thinking about exactly what it is that makes L.A. the mystery that will never fully be unraveled. And sort of everything all at once, both terrible and wonderful.

**END OF VIDEO 2**