

**(Los Angeles) LA in Motion - <https://www.ft.com/video/b352fc07-4304-4439-98fb-4520ed621dc5>**

The [Frieze Art Fair](#) is an international contemporary art fair which takes place in [London's Regent's Park](#) every October. In February 2019, a Frieze Art Fair was organised in Los Angeles (a fair also began in New York in 2016, and this year, the [New York Frieze](#) went on-line in early May due to Covid-19). In this video [Martine Syms](#), a local artist, drives through the town and examines the relationship between cars, culture and LA life. Covid-19 has already changed our access to art, but it may even intensify car use for a while, as people probably feel safer in their own cars than in public transport.

**Listen to video and answer the questions (the answers are at the end). Words and expressions used in the video are explained, to help you understand the gist (*general meaning*) of the video. Definitions are in *italics*.**

**Part 1: minute 0:00 to 0:55**

I'm an artist based in Los Angeles and I also grew up here. Frieze is coming to LA and it is going to be on the Paramount lot (here, *a piece of land*). Getting to the fair by car will be an experience for people... The culture of driving affects the way people relate to each other / the way you understand yourself. You spend hours in a car yourself.

Q1/ The 2019 Frieze in LA took place at a famous film studio? True/False

Q2/ Most people will drive to the fair by car. True/False

Q3/ What expression does Syms use to describe cars (0:49).

**Part 2: 0:56 to 2:05**

My work is about making films... the capture of movement / making video installations / looking at media and what it does to us / I move a lot and think about how infrastructures influence us. It's a .... / a parallel between navigating the city and understanding through the city/ there is a narrative, something unfolding (*opening up, spread out, unwrap*) / There are realities to be discovered. LA is car-dependent / following a concerted effort /

Q4/ What word does Syms use to describe the impact of movement (1:29)?

Q5/ Syms says she moves through ----- and ----.

Q6/ What kinds of realities does she discover.

Q7/ Car use in LA has not been accidental. True/False

**Part 3: 2:05 to 3:45**

"Talking cars" with Martine Syms on *Car Talk LA* / I'm driving down Arden [Street]... with artist and ... Lauren Halsey / I'm always trying to unpack (*take out, unbox*) ... how ... these intentions at play in my everyday life (*daily life*) the mundane (*banal, normal*) is a dynamic space / How do you feel taking a bus ride, getting around LA like this changes your experience? / I'm interested in how people live under certain conditions / Lauren says seeing the same blocks changing or disappearing became fascinating. / Syms asks if it gets into Lauren's work / Lauren says she creates her own ideal city blocks / proposals of spaces I wanted to build

Q8/ What is Lauren Halsey's other activity (2:23)?

Q9/ Syms is interested in what is right and wrong? True/False

Q10/ What word does Lauren use to describe how change is used in her work (3:25)?

**Part 4: 3:45 to 5:44**

Syms is visiting Donald Shoot at UCLA / Shoot: LA has some of the worst congestion in the world / the cars are comfortable. It seems like a good life, but it is at the expense of other things we could have / the car culture is encouraged by free parking... it was not foisted (*imposed, forced*) on to us, it is what we want / but you pay for free parking at work, it does not come out of thin air, it comes out of ... / I wanted to talk to you because I had these suspicions, these inklings (*hunch, indication, impression*) ... people only drive / many people don't use public transport / people who drive their cars should pay for it... we have marginalised people who don't own a car /

Q11/ Cars have ----- seats and --- – conditioning.

Q12/ How does Shoot describe free parking in LA?

Q13/ How much land does parking use?

Q14/ How do people pay for free parking at work?

Q15/ What proportion of people say they do not use public transport (5:21)?

Q16/ What is happening to people who don't drive cars?

#### **Part 5: 5:45 to 7:20**

A lot of people have not ridden any public transit (*US public transit; GB public transport*) / they have this image that no-one is on it... they are erasing (*eliminate, negate, wipe out*) all these people because there is tons of people who are riding the buses / the difficulty in getting from one place to another is going to be hardest on the poorest people here ... when you look at income levels, you are going to have predominately non-white people ... that's going to be your primary bus rider... it creates increased wealth disparity that can be striking (*impressive, marked, powerful*) / the way you get around the city, the way it is designed, the geography, is all related to these segregation patterns (*arrangements, markings, motives*) / people can have very different experiences of the city ... they are happening concurrently, and yet they (the people) are in isolation to each other / Often times I'm looking at the lives of people of colour and how there have been creative practices despite violence, discrimination and the systematic destruction of wealth / given those extreme conditions that you live in, what do you do?

Q16/ People who use cars totally ignore people who use public transit. True/False

Q17/ What does Syms say about the number of people using public transit in LA?

Q18/ The use of public transit depends a lot on class and race. True/False

#### **Part 6: 7:20 to 8:24**

I'm here at the Vincent Price museum, outside the Guadalupe Rosales exhibition "Echoes of a Collective Memory" looking at East LA party culture. What's a key element of living in LA, is that there are distinct communities that exist concurrently... so there is no centre, there is no place that is where you should be... people stay in their zone. The driving culture has many problems, but these practices could only arise from this unique situation.

Q19/ The populations and cultures of LA are very diverse. True / False

Q20/ What is the last aspect of LA car culture Syms describes?

#### **More videos on and by Martine Syms:**

[Grand Calme](#) (seen in the video above)

[Made in LA, 2016](#) (the production of ideology in the film industry)

[Martine Syms at MoMA](#)

[[Here you can see how "party culture"](#) is used as a way of explaining Edward Said's Orientalism.]

Q1/ true ([Paramount studios](#)); Q2/ true; Q3/ a metal box; Q4/ conditioning; Q5/ space and time; Q6/ social, economic and political; Q7/ true; Q8/ basketball player; Q9/ false; Q10/ re-mixing; Q11/ leather, air; Q12/ as a public policy; Q13/ about 200 square miles of land; Q14/ with their wages; Q15/ two thirds; Q16/ they are suffering; Q17/ She says there are tons of people, very many people; Q18/ true; Q19/ true; Q20/ She believes that the car culture means there is no central place or location in LA people go to, and so different peoples and cultures can live in different areas (zones). This contributes to the diversity of the city.