

DiTM – 01 Discovering Art_Omari Booker

Transcript of Audio from the Backstory Clip

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00:00:02 My first job I was a tennis instructor from 7 years old I'd go every summer and play tennis all summer. And so by the time I got to 14, I was good enough to teach the seven-year olds. But I was really interested in museums, looking at artwork. I would just stare forever thinking about how they were made and it seemed like magic. How could someone make a two-dimensional thing look three-dimensional? Just the mystical quality of making something out of nothing. That's kind of what I think I noticed as a kid and that was kind of enough for me to think it was just pretty incredible.

My mom definitely had a visual creative side and she did her own wallpapering. **00:00:38** She sewed the clothes that we made when we were kids. It was functional – but I think definitely – artistic. So that was my introduction. It had very little to do with me making any artwork, but mostly with just my appreciating it.

00:00:51 I took my first art class when I was in high school and then I went and played sports in college for three years and changed my major in that third year to art. There was really never a moment in school where I kind of knew that I was going to do this for a living, but I had started-I'd started to learn. Just started making artwork. And I think it's one of those things that a lot of artists would tell you, that it kind of chooses you more than you choose it.

And so it was necessity for me. I mean it was a therapeutic outlet, a spiritual outlet. Once I realized that I had to do it to sustain my life then I kept on doing it, and then [the] financial sort of followed and it became a job. But it definitely started off as something I needed to do just to maintain my mental health, spiritual growth, therapy. It was all those things first.