

Cincinnati Art Museum Hank Willis Thomas: All Things Being Equal...Workshop

Carroll Wallace – Pitch Black Off Whiteness Response Transcript

00:00:03,220 --> 00:00:07,984

Hi, I hope you've been having a beautiful day. My name is Carol

00:00:07,984 --> 00:00:11,954

and I'm going to help you breakdown the piece Pitch

00:00:11,954 --> 00:00:15,527

Blackness Off Whiteness by Hank Willis. So you can research etymologies of

00:00:15,527 --> 00:00:19,894

words, colors, shapes, you can, you know, you can research the

00:00:19,894 --> 00:00:23,864

actual mediums being used, the format, you can research context

00:00:23,864 --> 00:00:27,834

within meaning and things like that. So you basically just

00:00:27,834 --> 00:00:32,598

break it down, break it down, break it down, break it down,

00:00:33,400 --> 00:00:36,700

until the littlest piece that ignites some type of inspiration

00:00:36,700 --> 00:00:40,660

for you or some type of meaning. Inspiration doesn't just mean to

00:00:40,660 --> 00:00:44,620

make you feel good, it means some type of part that resonates

00:00:44,620 --> 00:00:48,910
with you or that rings true to
your mind and create some new

00:00:48,910 --> 00:00:51,880
neurological connections that
can sprout new thinking and that

00:00:51,880 --> 00:00:55,180
new thinking is the inspiration.
Because you're growing at that

00:00:55,180 --> 00:00:59,140
point and the art you're
allowing it to go into your mind

00:00:59,140 --> 00:01:03,760
and into your heart to allow you
to see reality in a new way.

00:01:04,830 --> 00:01:11,343
Oh OK, that being said, before I
get into breaking this down, I

00:01:11,343 --> 00:01:16,854
want to do a PSA, also known
as a public service

00:01:16,854 --> 00:01:22,365
announcement. So it is crucial
that please, please read, OK, and

00:01:22,365 --> 00:01:28,377
the reason why this is crucial
is because the history that a

00:01:28,377 --> 00:01:34,890
lot of these pieces appear to be
based off of are all about

00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:39,454
maintaining power. Power. Please
read, and if you don't like to

00:01:39,454 --> 00:01:43,366
read or you're not a great
reader. No big deal. Watch as

00:01:43,366 --> 00:01:46,952
many documentaries you can. Watch
ones that you think will be

00:01:46,952 --> 00:01:50,212
good. Watch ones that you think
will be bad. Compare

00:01:50,212 --> 00:01:53,146
information. Watch documentaries
in other languages, turn on the

00:01:53,146 --> 00:01:57,384
translations. OK, if you can. If
you can't do that, talk to as

00:01:57,384 --> 00:02:00,970
many people as you can. Talk,
talk, talk, meet people, meet

00:02:00,970 --> 00:02:04,556
people. Meet people, OK. Meet
people you agree with, the people

00:02:04,556 --> 00:02:08,468
you disagree with. Discourse is
the only way with one another we

00:02:08,468 --> 00:02:12,252
can grow. Without it, you allow
governing systems to say

00:02:12,252 --> 00:02:16,740
whatever they want, and you have
to deem it true or

00:02:16,740 --> 00:02:20,854
false. OK, the sign itself is

quite large, so it's commanding

00:02:20,854 --> 00:02:23,846

your attention. It's also
commanding authority. The color

00:02:23,846 --> 00:02:27,586

is actually quite bland and I
think it's interesting because

00:02:27,586 --> 00:02:32,448

the whitish color this was. I
don't know if this is a genuine

00:02:32,448 --> 00:02:37,310

neon light or not. But if it is, it
uses carbon dioxide to create

00:02:37,310 --> 00:02:39,928

the whitish hue. And so we expel

00:02:39,928 --> 00:02:43,376

carbon dioxide, as human, so
it's actually our waste, right?

00:02:43,376 --> 00:02:46,863

It's our waste from when we
breathe, and I think it's

00:02:46,863 --> 00:02:50,033

interesting that gas is being
used to illuminate the sign.

00:02:50,800 --> 00:02:54,177

So it's almost like illuminating
this sign with that which we

00:02:54,177 --> 00:02:56,019

don't want to deal with right?

00:02:56,019 --> 00:02:59,174

Inhale Love and Exhale. Signs

00:02:59,174 --> 00:03:03,582
money. And then go backwards.
Slavery was worth millions

00:03:03,582 --> 00:03:08,026
millions in the 1860s. OK, if
you're just thinking about the

00:03:08,026 --> 00:03:12,470
text alone, please remember the
idea of mind control and these

00:03:12,470 --> 00:03:14,894
words black and white and ness.

00:03:16,020 --> 00:03:21,756
They have context because a long
time ago of powerful few decided

00:03:21,756 --> 00:03:24,146
to give these words context.

00:03:24,700 --> 00:03:29,614
So that a huge amount of people
could be oppressed. Than the other

00:03:29,614 --> 00:03:33,772
oppressed people could oppress
the oppressed and the top 1%

00:03:33,772 --> 00:03:37,174
could actually do absolutely
nothing. They could lazily lead,

00:03:37,174 --> 00:03:41,332
because they've mind controlled
the masses to do what they need

00:03:41,332 --> 00:03:45,868
in order for them to remain in
power and with the most

00:03:45,868 --> 00:03:49,648
economic press. We talk about
concepts like black and white.

00:03:49,648 --> 00:03:53,806
People say it's not all about
race, and they're right. It's

00:03:53,806 --> 00:03:56,074
not all about race, but the

00:03:56,074 --> 00:04:00,988
oxymoron is that it's always
about race. So it's everything

00:04:00,988 --> 00:04:07,384
and nothing all at once and this
is manipulation. OK, so when you

00:04:07,384 --> 00:04:12,796
say some people will say Oh, but
is it about race?

00:04:13,420 --> 00:04:19,216
Yeah it is. Is it just about
race? It's never just about

00:04:19,216 --> 00:04:23,563
race. Imagine you have this
superhero of direct

00:04:23,563 --> 00:04:27,910
manipulation, so this is not
even passive manipulation. These

00:04:27,910 --> 00:04:31,774
are people that are being
directly manipulative and

00:04:31,774 --> 00:04:36,121
there's no consequences. So you
have your three, your

00:04:36,121 --> 00:04:40,951
superheroes working together,
kind of like your, I don't know,

00:04:40,951 --> 00:04:43,366
like Captain Planet, except for

00:04:43,366 --> 00:04:45,340
with a less

00:04:46,260 --> 00:04:50,706
good group of Captain Planet
people. Regardless, these are

00:04:50,706 --> 00:04:55,646
superheroes to control a
population of people in a way

00:04:55,646 --> 00:05:01,574
that could allow for a lot of
wrongdoing. And there are so

00:05:01,574 --> 00:05:07,008
many histories that can support
that assertion. So you have #1

00:05:07,008 --> 00:05:10,960
superhero of manipulation.
Number two, you have your

00:05:10,960 --> 00:05:15,900
superhero of fear. Number three, you have
your superhero of illusion.

00:05:16,590 --> 00:05:20,300
And number four you have the
superhero of scarcity. So

00:05:20,300 --> 00:05:24,381
plotting your people against
each other, and I almost want to

00:05:24,381 --> 00:05:25,865

add the superhero of

00:05:26,560 --> 00:05:28,140

oxymoronic legitimization. Shape

00:05:28,140 --> 00:05:33,810

your body. Your body can be replaced, but if you take the

00:05:33,810 --> 00:05:36,736

mind that mind can create generational trauma,

00:05:36,736 --> 00:05:40,916

generational problems train the mind. You can get populations to

00:05:40,916 --> 00:05:45,514

do anything you want, as long as you provide people with

00:05:45,514 --> 00:05:49,694

scarcity, fear, and this idea of these allusions to help

00:05:49,694 --> 00:05:51,784

legitimize things that are not

00:05:52,450 --> 00:05:55,807

legitimate. That's what we call oxymoronic legitimization. It is

00:05:55,807 --> 00:05:57,299

making things legitimate that

00:05:58,050 --> 00:06:01,209

are not actually legitimate. It's actually oxymoronic to make

00:06:01,209 --> 00:06:05,070

these things legitimate 'cause they are so wrong they are so

00:06:05,070 --> 00:06:10,870
wrong. These terms when you
abstract them out of the Western

00:06:10,870 --> 00:06:15,082
context, did not immediately
make people think of oppression

00:06:15,082 --> 00:06:20,698
or people in the first place. OK,
white and black aren't even

00:06:20,698 --> 00:06:23,038
technically colors.
Scientifically, they're not

00:06:23,038 --> 00:06:27,250
colors, they are actually, the exact
opposite. They're achromatic.

00:06:27,250 --> 00:06:33,712
OK, but, with our minds, the
government, along time ago, right

00:06:33,712 --> 00:06:35,356
created a system

00:06:37,110 --> 00:06:42,660
to maximize wealth. And they
made a bunch of people

00:06:43,340 --> 00:06:47,384
Black, and a bunch of people
White. OK, and they said the

00:06:47,384 --> 00:06:50,754
closer we get to economic
prosperity is to have lighter

00:06:50,754 --> 00:06:54,798
skin to be white. Basic, basic
division of people still is well

00:06:54,798 --> 00:06:59,516
known and is still an issue now.
And people say, but why? And all

00:06:59,516 --> 00:07:00,527
these things will

00:07:01,170 --> 00:07:04,842
Because it was meant to be an
issue up until now, slave

00:07:04,842 --> 00:07:07,902
masters were thinking about the
next day. Slave masters were

00:07:07,902 --> 00:07:10,350
thinking about mind control for
generations, super generations

00:07:10,350 --> 00:07:13,716
and thousands of years because,
as far as they were concerned,

00:07:13,716 --> 00:07:17,388
the people with the money, just
like today, they were going to

00:07:17,388 --> 00:07:20,754
have the money forever. They
weren't trying to plan on just

00:07:20,754 --> 00:07:24,426
being millionaires for a year or
two. They were planning on being

00:07:24,426 --> 00:07:26,262
gender, racial, multi
generational millionaires for

00:07:26,262 --> 00:07:29,628
hundreds of years. And for that
to happen they were thinking.

00:07:29,628 --> 00:07:31,464

But we need obviously someone to

00:07:31,464 --> 00:07:34,968

step on. Right, and people
are still being stepped on

00:07:34,968 --> 00:07:37,736

today. Understand how much
money slavery was making.

00:07:37,736 --> 00:07:41,542

OK, be clear, and I also
want you to think about

00:07:41,542 --> 00:07:45,348

what you see. Neon signs in
front of cars? Right? Bars?

00:07:46,510 --> 00:07:50,938

Other areas places that make a
lot of money right? In seduce

00:07:50,938 --> 00:07:56,104

people, right? I need a new car
I wanted. I wanted to couple of

00:07:56,104 --> 00:07:59,056

drinks with some friends.
Hopefully I'll meet somebody

00:07:59,056 --> 00:08:02,008

quick things. OK, instant
gratification and the signage

00:08:02,008 --> 00:08:06,436

was actually in one source. It
noted as liquid fire so things

00:08:06,436 --> 00:08:10,864

like catch your attention right
away to sell and make money. OK,

00:08:10,864 --> 00:08:15,292
so I think it's very important
to note that Hank Willis chosen

00:08:15,292 --> 00:08:17,506
medium that has also been used

00:08:17,580 --> 00:08:22,035
to make money. He has very
specific meaning. In the United

00:08:22,035 --> 00:08:26,490
States, and I'm not saying that
the piece loses meaning across

00:08:26,490 --> 00:08:30,945
borders, but the meaning changes
the history of black and white

00:08:30,945 --> 00:08:35,805
is is detailed and specific in
the United States, and when you

00:08:35,805 --> 00:08:40,260
go across borders, the meaning
of these words change and mind

00:08:40,260 --> 00:08:43,905
control has allowed just as
slave masters predicted, people

00:08:43,905 --> 00:08:46,740
have been controlled for
generation after generation

00:08:46,740 --> 00:08:49,980
after generation after
generation, because it's not the

00:08:49,980 --> 00:08:51,600
body that's being controlled

00:08:51,700 --> 00:08:55,580

it's the mindset. If you can control people's mindsets, they

00:08:55,580 --> 00:08:59,848
will pass it on to their offspring. So that black, it's

00:08:59,848 --> 00:09:03,340
funny, because I did. Obviously an etymological

00:09:03,340 --> 00:09:07,996
search on black and white, and more hits came for black because

00:09:07,996 --> 00:09:12,652
a lot of sources are actually saying that black and white were

00:09:12,652 --> 00:09:16,532
interchangeable for a period of time, depending on where you

00:09:16,532 --> 00:09:20,412
decide to track the language. So I think that's interesting,

00:09:20,412 --> 00:09:21,964
especially within this sign.

00:09:22,050 --> 00:09:27,216
If you think about the play of the words that in fact the words

00:09:27,216 --> 00:09:31,644
black and white were in fact more than likely looking at all

00:09:31,644 --> 00:09:35,703
this research interchangeable at one point. So pitch, I didn't do

00:09:35,703 --> 00:09:39,762

an etymology for it, but the actual original meaning is a

00:09:39,762 --> 00:09:43,083
substance that's obtained. It's a residue, and it's attained

00:09:43,083 --> 00:09:46,404
from the distillation of wood, and it's usually like

00:09:47,850 --> 00:09:51,529
a dark brown or black color and it was used to waterproof ships.

00:09:51,529 --> 00:09:55,208
About that, so mind control - keep the body, take the mind. This is

00:09:55,208 --> 00:09:59,170
a quote by Willie Lynch who was a slave master. He went and gave

00:09:59,170 --> 00:10:03,458
talks on how to psychologically control your slaves and not just

00:10:03,458 --> 00:10:08,866
your black slaves for a couple of years, he was thinking in the

00:10:08,866 --> 00:10:11,362
next thousands of years he was.

00:10:12,130 --> 00:10:14,680
He understood humans.

00:10:15,340 --> 00:10:20,360
OK, he understood mind control, so he wasn't talking about

00:10:20,360 --> 00:10:23,372
anything more than

psychologically trapping people,

00:10:23,372 --> 00:10:25,380
so that they believe

00:10:26,380 --> 00:10:29,955
every word that comes out of
authorities. Find a way to

00:10:29,955 --> 00:10:33,205
educate yourself, because the
easiest way for society to be

00:10:33,205 --> 00:10:38,308
completely utterly taken over
with a pinky, with no work at all,

00:10:38,308 --> 00:10:42,356
is if they do not educate
themselves. It's the easiest way

00:10:42,356 --> 00:10:46,404
to control. I don't know. Visit
different public spaces to ask

00:10:46,404 --> 00:10:50,084
questions. Walk through the
mall, look at signage, look at

00:10:50,084 --> 00:10:53,764
colors. Look at marketing. Be
aware of your surroundings and

00:10:53,764 --> 00:10:57,444
ask questions. Be critical. If
not, that's how society is

00:10:57,444 --> 00:11:01,492
easily controlled to do wrong
together happily. On top of it,

00:11:01,492 --> 00:11:03,332
how. Thank you for listening.

00:11:04,670 --> 00:11:07,736
I hope to see when Gallery talk

00:11:07,736 --> 00:11:11,300
these pieces and
conversations are layered,

00:11:11,300 --> 00:11:13,806
their intersectional, and
their possible to speak

00:11:13,806 --> 00:11:18,102
about any amount of time
that I have, so I hope to

00:11:18,102 --> 00:11:21,682
see you again on Gallery
talk. Thank you again and

00:11:21,682 --> 00:11:23,114
have a beautiful day.