

Clara Aden Hypocrite (edit v1)

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Dyalekt

D Dyalekt 00:00
Welcome, again, everybody to the museum of dead words. We're here with the online series and our first artists interview talking about the wonderful visual art that's been created in connection in conjunction with the stuff that we're doing. We have Clara Aiden, who is here from Legos and we're gonna talk a little bit about what she's got going on. Clara, welcome. Thank you so much for joining us. Thank you for being a part of this and collaborating with us in the museum.

o 00:27
Thank you. Thank you so much, I'm very excited to be on the show. To me it is a privilege. It's an honor to be part of this project. Thank you so much for the opportunity. And for the platform for people to see my art.

D Dyalekt 00:46
that means a lot to me. I always feel like it's a privilege and honor to work with visual artists. I don't know if I told you this, but I've always wanted to be able to draw or paint or express the pictures in my mind. With what I can put on a page or a canvas or something like that. So I always admire you guys and the ways that your minds think I always say I use all thousand words to paint my pictures. That's why I became a word artist. So just looking at the pieces that you have here behind you, and what they're able to say is so

amazing. So first, let's start with how did you hear about the show? And what made you decide that you wanted to collaborate and bring something to the museum?



01:28

Yeah, I saw the call for artist proposal on Instagram. And the first thing that I passed my attention is the Museum of Dead Words. I said "Wow, Museum of Dead Words" so I really want to know more about it. So I went I click on the website, and I find it very fascinating because recently I've been exploring the world of photography, which I use What I used



02:05

to think I've been testing since he was



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dead was I can Wow, this is a very good project for me to walk away with something. I believe we do risk time exploring that I'm doing on, typographic, I don't believe It is another way for me to expand my art practice when I read for the proposal and I was so fascinated by these themes, because recently, I my daughter was to be useful. I went to the summers, you guessed from drugs, or ha and I'm not an elderly woman at the pharmacy store. And he was just rambling on complaining about the fact that they shouldn't be the people that have other kinds of diseases so that I don't know to be lucasta Okay, fine, that's fine. We have people in COVID-19 have been looking outside the box why doing that? You know, they cannot hide behind that hypocrisy of "saving life"



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So that words rings a bell.



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So when I saw the word hypocrite, Okay, on, you know, one of the words that I use, I think is very I want to address and I, I put everything into it because like, this is what I just experienced. That means the woman was complaining that she went to the local pharmacy center for polio vaccine for her granddaughter but along the line they said All the workers were not available. So both few weeks later, there was no after. I saw you guys now I know when I saw y'all congratulating me that I'm part of the project. I went back to

the store to find out like a final feedback because I know because of my discussion about the project I need I need to do the follow up. Because that day I did not even talk to the woman that was you know, I love talking to her to hear more about the whole story behind the incident. But I was so glad the pharmacist told me that able to get a polio virus for her granddaughter



05:03

Not from



05:06

anyway I, I just feel it looks to me the the the word hypocrite of saving life like I said you would answer because we are offending people that have Covid-19 and thereby lead like every other. that have diseases like that I bet I have time I do the higher rates of measles that students are having. So you're gonna be like, Oh, I don't believe them. For me. That's just the way I think about I was so happy, you know to collaborate with you guys don't forget and that was what really brings about



06:03

Do the work.



Dyalekt 06:07

I love that. You know, that's reminds me of what I think people don't understand a lot of times why artists make art, right? We are like inventors, we are problem solvers. We don't necessarily need to make art unless we see something that we need to explore. And when you saw that, and you saw this inequity, this inequality that was going on, you're like, why? And you heard the word hypocrisy, which is tied to and you wanted to dig further into that. That's really great. And I want to talk about that in a minute. But first, let's talk a little bit more about you. Now. I know you live in a boy kuttu in Legos, Nigeria. Is that where you were born also?



06:48

No, I was born in a town group that's not too far from nowhere, says anything now. I was born October 8.



07:02

Besides a Wednesday.



07:07

In fact, All my life I've lived all my life.



07:13

And by my growing up as a child, I was a little bit shy. I, in fact, he asked me to go on tours. Okay, now I was a very shy person but not now, I'm not I'm not shy, but I'm so shy that I don't like, you know people putting too much attention on me anywhere. I grew up in a country in an environment where the tide was floating the wall of a secular or news india because when they see a girl, you know they watch boys Considering we'll be looking at you and says, you decide you look so why are you doing this? No. You're not supposed to do that, no, this is more. This is more. Ah, no, it's more more like kind of us test, you know a boy to be doing Tango for my mom. My dad wanted to be a nurse.



08:26

Well my mom, my mom said no.



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don't let go leave my daughter alone let do what she has beend doing.



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go and I remember my five then I was in a new city. No. He will not be the I mean the man called my mom. I told my mom that whenever you see her doing, don't disturb her anything she wants to do. She's very good at it. So now No, my mom gave me the support everything Miss law. I You know, I do what I want to do, and there was no voting. So in a way, I'm trying to, you know, talk to parents, because that is also one thing I do also, I talk to parents, when I see I tried to tell you that their child is very fine. I'm only like, a volunteer, okay, I'm going to frame this, john, I want her to do good art even better than me. So I go to the length of even talking to the parent, that's fine. If you want this girl to be a doctor, she can be a doctor, but at the same time let her be singing, let her be drawing,

let her be painting. It won't disturb, you know, her career, so for me and somebody that I'm so passionate in that area or Danna, I really I left my when I did my NYS, my secondary school living facility examination, I think, with flying colors. I I saw an advert in a newspaper that said they're looking for an art illustrator, potentially even indicate that they wanted pencil artists so my sister told me said "Ah. You are very good with pencils, why don't you want to try this? I thought "Hey! You want me to go and try this. They are looking for adults. They're not looking for teenagers. And looking at me then I was so skinny, so tiny. So they're looking at me they will even think I'm feeling like a junior school. So when my sister pushed me she said, No, I You are good. Go for it. So I went for the interview. Hi, I'm one of the top 3 artists You got two options in you didn't come back home. My mom told me that okay, I went fine. I said, you know, Nora, Nora, tell your friends walk home with your paper give a silly line. And then the last illustration and I did I didn't go well. I went back to bed. I stopped on the kitchen with these five so it's like already they've already seen me as at the end of the day when the production manager said, Oh, no, no, Madame, the general manager and I said is Madame better give me an illustrator this week. I cannot be doing illustrating and doing the graphics and doing the productions and so on. Call me nuts. Good boy. This is the model I use your you can call this publishing out at a wall. I said my Dad, don't look at my stash. Ah, Fontaine grip come out from smoking smoke. I said, keep your advance and put you in charge of this company, and you're a woman and I can do better. Ah, that is what I want to hear, you got the job. So, I was I got that job and I was there. I was there for three years. When I left there, I had to leave because some people were asking me that where have I been when they saw my life demonstration at an art party. That was in 2003. They wondered where have I been. I usually name these labels. I say Yes, I do. Live Not that I know Sarah nipple constantly afterwards needs to be in the art community, you should know what's going on you that is how you know what is going on. So, so I left there. And then I never looked back. I just stopped practicing as a full time artist.

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Dyalekt 13:28

I love that that's really powerful. I mean, there's a couple of things that you brought up that I think are really important. You talked a number of times in a different ways about going where you don't belong, or where people say you don't belong, say that there's no place for a woman here. There's no place for a young person here. We don't have a place for you. And so again, what I think is great about artists and how we can transcend these ideas of what these labels are supposed to be again, dealing with, you know, the idea of hypocrites and us being inconsistent. What you said about working with Kids that makes me think of something that my mom did that I always I'm trying to do with my own children as I, you know, start to do. My thing is there's a poet, Khalil Gibran, who had a poem about children that my mom had in my bathroom wall. And it said, Our children are

not our children. They're the children of life's belongingness for itself, and then ended with seek to be like them, but seek not to make them you because life does not move backwards nor Terry's with yesterday, and like, the whole thing of it that I always got as an artist, right? Is that the things that we create, um, they're not for ourselves, once we share them, we make them for ourselves. And then once we share them, they're for other people, and for them to understand what they want. And when we talk to actual creators to young people about how they want to do things. We know that just like you said, with your family, what we need is support. Support is the thing we need so that we can make our own decisions rather than instruction and indoctrination. And I think That's often the issue when we talk about whether people are a hypocrite or not a hypocrite. It's this idea of whether or not they hold up to this thing that we consider standard and not the issue of what's actually going on. So let's talk a little bit about your process and what you were doing with the piece and with these pieces here that you have, let's wrap about what was going on with your mind what you were trying to bring out. Any other things that might have been asking about that you thought of?



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Thank you so much. I'm gonna happen. Like I said, the first song to come on board on this project was my my dialogue and the concept I had at the pharmacy was are you allocating your music? Now I told you I listen to the broken clock. You're and it wasn't this particular place that said is a prophecy is this ignorant inviting people are they are they really doing it because they are ignorant or is something that you know natural rock does come you know to a natural being or is it that they are doing it intentionally in a way so when i when i when i i hold on to that word that is he ignorant or maybe they're trying to hide something something I came to my mind that okay why people hypocrites? I'm not remember I can't remember the cause or but there is this something somebody told me many years ago that Good and Evil, they are interwoven



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as they cannot do without each other.



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So, good and evil is a human construct, light and dark, is a nature construct.



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Family hold on to those words.



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So I believe people are hypocrites




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either way I can say





17:32


my personality. Yeah, you're good or you are bad as in everybody has that suicide is not your own choice is a choice, you know, which we show that side. You want to embrace, why you are good, you know that show your monetary side. All you want to embrace the darker side. Everything depends on you as a person wandered off into my mind, okay, if you do are a hypocrite, that means you you are not doing this because you are a bad person or you're not doing it because you are a good person in life it is a human construct life like I've been in existence on a woman day, which is not often you know, if you want to be a hypocrite or you just want to be diplomatic like that. That's the norm didn't want to be a hypocrite. Instead of them to embrace the evil side, they'd rather be diplomatic. Instead of embracing it, I thought that there would be diplomatic to avoid the hypocritical side of them. So that was how I created the guy with the horns same fencing you know, you see the other side of the guy like I mean he'll give the guy wings at the back and you know, the other side is reflective of the good side why the other side is reflecting the darker side of man as is so for me, I believe is a choice because if you can, you can be a hypocrite or you might not even know that you are you have that nature in you, I know some people when you tell them you are a hypocrite, they will tell you that "Are you sure I'm a hypocrite? I'm not a hypocrite." I don't want to, um you know and raise that word or embrace that attitude of hypocrite to call them hypocrite them telling you what have I done that makes me a hypocrite? I believe is something that has been human nature. So yeah, we like it or not human beings are hypocrites just that it's not up to you you know you know how are you able to protect and addresses when there's somebody that was arguing about the guy with at horn, then you're the one who is two-faced, look at the doctor assessing is looking looking at you, but at the same time you are seeing the side the other side of the doctor. So, in a way I was just trying to

 20:47
wrong

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You know, you know where there was, you know, run through what I've been saying as in the course of saying we are saving lives because of shouting the name of you saving life will not let you let others know which is the idea of creating that two sided face of the doctor that was behind that. Then the one at my right side yes my right side. I use myself I knew I during the jury session was asking me that one of the world healthy on healthy, you know looks to me. You know there has to be what are the LD? What? What What did I think about to my mind that there was for me when I had the word unhealthy.

 21:50
You don't want was

 21:53
the kind of food you say?

 21:56
You don't really we don't really have it. Hold on. kind of foods that you eat. So for me, when you are healthy that means you watch what you eat, you do exercise the law. And then then you sleep when it's time for you to sleep. And you wake up when it's time for you to wake up. So that is the way to be healthy to me. So I decided to use my Save as a new look at the city and I'm holding costs inside the cost normally for me, they kind of factor for me and I'll be doing for you. I I don't take orders. Chocolate only sad green. No, no, no, no, no, it's all for me. I don't know any what I did is I take tea, or coffee. I think those two and I discipline myself that I believe as a person if you really want to know Maintain a well balanced diet you have to be disciplined about it.

 23:05
It's not that I don't like to eat sugar



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that. I don't know. I don't know how to eat hamburger or shawarma. Okay, I am. I'm so in love with shawarma. I sleep, I sleep I sleep low but over the years I've been able to



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do this



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for everything as a discipline, so I decided to use myself as a you know, drinking my new job. I do serapi and then looking at tea, because most times I find that a lot of people they don't like to take the parties again, something that is so bitter. And when you decide to take bitter drinks are these like



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How about dreams? They are very good



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dreams they are so good for



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our dreams are very detail. So unlike somebody that is so used to shoot Greece for not taking chocolate cake you know also so sweet and somebody like that cannot sleep cannot have a daily, ah, no medical



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didn't take care of



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it. So before me I've developed



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over the years and it's worked very well for me. So for me, I believe what we agree might work and be very disciplined in order to deliver a routine of doing exercise, which was one of the I tell people that is the best choice, it works wonders so The one down this one this particular one, if you're looking at seats I, I collect a lot of photos as photo. Women, guys have different professionals for hospitals, more children, boys and girls and only people that I call lead every photos, I can lay my hand home. So I know that assembling them after the order to have the final topic in which I wanted to put the image I wanted to see. So that was the one I showed you in our presentation. Remember, yeah, so what i what i need or need that I can say The picture of a of a not wearing a mask. But if you look at TV says, boy, that is your nose that is no I didn't put the nose no the litmus test net. So not only our face law you're pulling out your face, your face before the house and you're holding. So in a way I'm trying to forget that



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people want



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to walk on now. A lot of people they have so many facial marks and they didn't know they had it



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they have in terms of



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what to go through somewhere now. They'll put on a mask and leave one of their masks at home. When they go to where they're going. They will drop that mask, put another facial mask on. In a way People have so many faces. Not that we have one head. I know it is possible. You will see people going around with all five faces on their head on at the same time. Yeah, yeah. So because of my size, I find that people tend to have so many facial marks you now. They pretend to be what they are not. I know somebody that would say, "Oh, I'm from a very rich background. And they are from the ghetto? Why do you act this insane? You don't need to pretend And then somebody has to say everybody lies. I know somebody that is tall. We think because I'm in jail. By the time that they finish talking

about that person. Do we feel like washing that pesky all up like you He kind of violence we feel towards that person up like watching the person where people have this habit of, you know, showing different faces. So carry one face, put that one down, put another one on, ya know, containers and at the end of the day, they will go about do whatever they want to do. When they get back home, they'll put the facial mask down there who don't carry another one and put it on their face. So people go about different face masks because they pretend to be what they are not. So that was the inspiration behind these wonderful art pieces. For the last one, I remember I said the essence of this project. the theme at the Museum of Dead Words You know starting with me fencing we work techniques that I know I'm experimenting with so I decided okay, I'm going to use all the eleven words to create a picture of you which I do yeah so I decided to use the level was hypocrite bad is that please law risky risky at the eleven words



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I used those words to create



29:46

a ball yeah so I used that ah



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my three your thing



29:56

yeah holding the mic Do you know I wrote 'MDW' Which is Museum of Dead Words. So those are the five artworks I've been able to create



Dyalekt 30:14

that's really amazing thank you for describing and explaining the whole point behind them because it these pictures on their own paint their own pictures but together it really gets me an understanding of where you're coming from. And it helps explain further what we were talking about on Tuesday. On Tuesday when I was doing the blueprints in progress, I was talking about how the origins of the word hypocrite, were originally about keeping people safe by being able to say that you are a part of the group that you were a

part of that would keep you safe by letting you know who is in the group and who was not in the group. And what you talked about, in a lot of different ways with each of these pieces dealt with the way that people create safety. By having groups when we talked about being healthy, and watching what we eat, and having discipline and being able to take the bitter medicine and make that a part of us, when people talk about how when you talked earlier about being a hypocrite is kind of part of human nature. And a lot of times we don't even know when we're being inconsistent when we're saying something and doing something different. And then a lot of times, we are hypocrites, because we need to do so for safety. There are times when people you say they put on the mask, they say the person who said that they are rich when they come from a poor neighborhood. They may be saying that because they know that they would not be able to get a job or have some community accept them if they didn't put on this mask. And I really love what you say about many of us were five, six masks at once. In America, I know one thing that black Americans have done. There was even a movie about it Sorry to bother you, where they talked about code switching Which is putting on a mask of veneer of whiteness, in your voice or in your mannerisms, for safety. And this really breaks down why I think it's important for us to talk about how hypocrite is just the starting point. And like you do in your work you delve from with a starting point. Okay, let's look at what is our intent? What are we trying to make safe, and one point of it is, are we a lot not allowing ourselves to embrace the darkness and light within us. I always love to talk about how in numerology, we talk about the number six and how it's the mark of the beast and the devil and scary and all this stuff, and then the seven the divine, but we don't talk about how afraid we are of the number 13 when it's just a combination of both. And that's the thing that we don't want to deal with because it's harder, it's much easier to say you are a hypocrite, you are the enemy. You are wrong. Stay away from me, I will take mine. While we're not dealing with the times when we are hypocrites and times when we are inconsistent. The times when we are wrong the times when we lack discipline, and fail ourselves, because I will tell you, Clara, I do love me a good shwarma.



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I will. When I'm on tour,





Dyalekt 33:13

one of the first things I love to because I know that drama is like in every country in the world, and everyone does it differently. So when I'm on tour, if I'm going to Germany or France or wherever I want to try, there's one. So I understand what you're talking about these things, these disciplines, the rhythms that we hold on to are so difficult, and to do them and to pull them off to live, how we want to live. We have to know we have safety.

And we don't know we have safety. So we wear masks. It's why many times on first dates. People aren't themselves, because it's not always safe to be yourself. And that's the thing of it. It's um, there are times when I guess cowardice and all that is involved, but there are other times when it's pure And need for safety. And this is really powerful and really gets me and I want to, before we roll, I want to talk a little bit more about what you were talking about with the the healthy versus unhealthy and how things are. We are talking about trying to stay discipline and eat well and do your thing that's really great ideals and really great habits to build for yourself. And I know that here in New York at the very least, it is not our culture, to think about that. If we don't think that we have the time. I know that I'm always in my mind like you. I'm an educator, I'm an artist, and I think that I have to help everybody in New York tells you Hey, if you want to help people and run around all day, that's cool. We have a hamburger or a slice of pizza, you can just grab and you can take it on the subway and you don't have to make a salad and do your workout and all that you can just do your thing and run around from work thing to work thing until you tire yourself out and how these things they they correlate to us having sickness and having inability to get what we want done. When it's already the thing, it's like the thing that we want is impeded by the thing that we do regularly to try to get what we want for the world. And that's one of the hypocrisy that lives within us. I remember when we were talking before you had this great story you're telling and I would love it if we could end on this one. About how you, you saw a hospital where the government actually had to intervene in what was going on in the hospital and how they were treating people. And I think this is one of the things about like, for all of the ways that we label each other the rubber hits the road when we make actions that benefit people who aren't just us. So Can Can you tell us a little bit about this and Where did it happen also, what's the name of the hospital?

 35:51
Wow.

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Mortality or you must ask right off bled into that hospital. And that was many years ago, our former governor of Lagos State Governor


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fashola

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he

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asked me to not do this. Normally, John decided to go without the normal tiring. And the normal escorts so he went to New York and this guy himself as an elderly man, you know try to talk to them after the session, but the the the way what we neglect and abuse and this is only so and those losses that they never knew he was the governor never knew what he was for upset he was very frustrated at the children out into the world is a special world. negotiating students what if he was so upset that how can you put your neglect patients to be offended or telling you that you don't want to say daddy man, where are your children? You know, you know insult an elderly, man. So I was so annoyed when by the time he came back when I came back looking like

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the God knows, you know?

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Yo so standard. I would love to have them do a start up dynasty was started. And now we won't do this now. And especially since I don't joke with him about it or nothing more boy is more deer that doesn't walk in on the offend that person You know, they don't even want to know which class it belongs to. They don't want to so far they see you coming into the US here we welcome you with one hand which fits you well, because of what happened when he said that that happened and that a lot fo them were suspended some of them were able to turned away because of that incident. So, so till now the place now if you go there, they do everything, and welcome everybody, only, and they don't they don't and they make sure they keep the

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attention wherever their attention.

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That was what happened done years ago.

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Dyalekt 38:46

That's so really that's really powerful. And that brings to mind I think, the most important part of why I wanted to end up typic right into the museum. We talked a little bit about safety, and it's not just about safety, it's also about power, how much power you have and how you use it. We are all hypocrites to some degree, we have this dark and this light and all of these things within us. And when it comes to inequality, inequality is not created by the power of this. Inequality is created by the powerful. We have powerless. And we are working on building ourselves up to a place where we can be decision makers. We are not in control. Once we have the ability to be in control of one ourselves, we discipline ourselves to eat healthy to try to sleep to take care of ourselves. And once we have some power, like over government over other folks, then we have the responsibility to make sure that we take care of others, again, our responsibility being our ability to respond. And as we build this world of deciding whether or not it's okay to wear these masks, the way that we take off The mass is by making place for others. And thank you so much for making plays for me in your pieces and in what we've done. This has been really amazing and enlightening Claire, is there anything else you want to say before we roll because we haven't Get out of here. We've been talking a lot. It's a great stuff here with AdWords.



40:20

Wow. Kudos to you guys. Your team. They are great. I reached out to Pam. She's very amazing. You really wonderful job. And I look forward to seeing you guys. Yes, yeah. guys. Thank you once again, for having me on board.

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Dyalekt 40:47

Thank you. Thank you.