

Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles

Los Angeles is a city that is constantly in motion. Cars whiz by on the freeways, cyclists pedal through the streets, and people walk everywhere - on sidewalks, in parks, and even in the middle of the road. But there is one form of locomotion that is uniquely Angeleno: sidewalk walking.



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by David L. Ulin

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Sidewalk walking is not merely the act of putting one foot in front of the other while on a sidewalk. It is a subculture, a way of life, a microcosm of the city's complex and intriguing character.

For the sidewalk walker, the city is a never-ending source of fascination. There is always something new to see, from the latest street art to the latest fashion trends. And there is always someone new to meet, from fellow walkers to street vendors to homeless people.

Sidewalk walking is a great way to get to know Los Angeles and its people. It is also a great way to get some exercise and fresh air. But most importantly, sidewalk walking is a way to connect with the city on a deeper level. It is a way to see the city's beauty, its ugliness, and its endless possibilities.

The Walkers

There are as many different types of sidewalk walkers in Los Angeles as there are people who live here. But there are a few commonalities that unite them.

First, sidewalk walkers are almost always alone. This is not because they are antisocial, but because sidewalk walking is a solitary activity. It is a time for reflection, for observation, and for getting lost in one's thoughts.

Second, sidewalk walkers are always moving. They may not be walking quickly, but they are never standing still. They are always on the lookout for something new, something interesting, something beautiful.

Third, sidewalk walkers are always observant. They notice the details of their surroundings, from the cracks in the sidewalk to the expressions on people's faces. They are always looking for something to learn, something to understand.

The Walk

The sidewalk walk is a journey, both physical and metaphorical. It is a journey through the city, but it is also a journey through the self.

As sidewalk walkers move through the city, they are constantly bombarded with stimuli. They see people from all walks of life, they hear all sorts of languages, and they smell all sorts of smells. This can be overwhelming at first, but over time sidewalk walkers learn to filter out the noise and focus on what is important to them.

Sidewalk walking is also a journey through the self. As sidewalk walkers walk, they have time to reflect on their lives, their goals, and their dreams.

The journey is not always easy. There are times when sidewalk walkers feel lost, lonely, or discouraged. But there are also times when they feel exhilarated, inspired, and alive.

The sidewalk walk is ultimately a journey of discovery. It is a journey to discover the city, to discover oneself, and to discover the endless possibilities that life has to offer.

The City

Los Angeles is a city that is constantly changing. It is a city of immigrants, of dreamers, and of people who are always looking for something better. It is a city of contradictions, of beauty and ugliness, of hope and despair.

The sidewalk walker is a witness to all of this change. They see the city's evolution firsthand, from the construction of new skyscrapers to the displacement of old neighborhoods. They see the city's struggles, from homelessness to poverty to crime.

But they also see the city's beauty. They see the city's resilience, its creativity, and its indomitable spirit. The sidewalk walker sees the city for

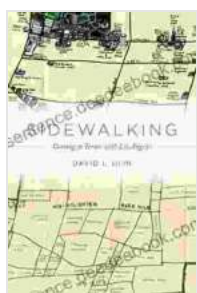
what it is: a complex, contradictory, and ever-changing place.

The Future

The future of sidewalk walking in Los Angeles is uncertain. The city is becoming increasingly dense, and there is less and less space for pedestrians. But the sidewalk walker is an adaptable creature. They have found ways to thrive in the city's ever-changing landscape.

In the years to come, the sidewalk walker will continue to be a fixture of Los Angeles. They will continue to explore the city's streets, to observe its people, and to reflect on its ever-changing character.

The sidewalk walker is a symbol of the city's past, present, and future. They are a reminder that the city is a place where anything is possible, where dreams can come true, and where the journey is just as important as the destination.



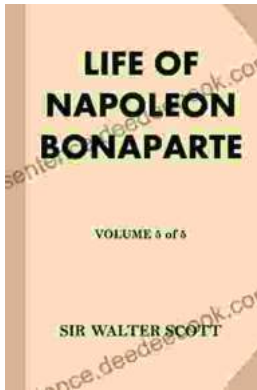
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