

JOEL THOMAS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An Illustrator with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Auburn University and a Master's degree in Illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design whose work has been featured in Spectrum: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art Vol. 10 and 13. Notable clients include Zynga, Wizards of the Coast, Magic: The Gathering, DC Universe: Online, Digital Domain, Wildstorm Entertainment and Todd McFarlane (Image Comics Co-Founder).

SKILLS

- Illustration
- Logo creation
- Adobe Photoshop
- Procreate
- 2D design
- Concept Art
- Adobe Illustrator
- Mentoring Artists

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Illustrator, JoelDrawsit, Jan 1992 - Current, Round Rock, TX

- Planned and coordinated illustration projects from initial consultation to final delivery.

Principal Artist, Zynga, Mar 2015 - Sep 2019, Austin, TX

- Spearheaded Likeness Control Efforts: Initiated likeness control for high-profile projects, including "Wizard of Oz: Slots", "Willy Wonka: Slots", "The Princess Bride: Slots" Ensured meticulous attention to detail in character design and art direction, consistently gaining approval from Warner Bros on "first pass" submissions
- Collaborated Remotely with New York Studios Creative Team to conceptualize and bring to life Crosswords W/Friends mascot.
- Maintained open and effective communication channels, resulting in a cohesive and compelling brand representation
- Artistic Training & Development: Held several comprehensive training sessions specializing in game-specific portrait techniques
- Enhanced skill set of Art team, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and elevating quality of artwork across projects.

Illustrator III, Multimedia Games, Jul 2013 - Mar 2015, Austin, TX

- Illustration and Animation: Spearheaded illustration and animation of several Mechanical and Video Slot Machine Game projects
- Delivered captivating visual content that enhanced player engagement and success of each game.

Graphic Production Artist, Outhouse Graphics, Jan 2008 - Jul 2008, Austin, TX.

- T-Shirt Design: Demonstrated a keen artistic touch by creating custom and retail t-shirt designs, focusing on both artwork and typography
- Produced visually appealing and marketable designs that resonated with clients and customers
- Print Optimization Expertise: Managed the technical aspect of the design process by skillfully color-separating artwork for print
- Maintained clear and effective communication with printing professionals to ensure high-quality outcomes

- Logo Design Proficiency: Utilized graphic design skills to fulfill logo design requests when necessary
- Crafted distinctive and memorable logos that aligned with client brand identities.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts: Sculpture
Auburn University, Aug 1988

Master's degree: Illustration
Savannah College of Art and Design

Certification: Sculpture
University of Georgia in Athens, Cortona, Cortona, Italy, Dec 1989

- Studied abroad at UGA Cortona in Cortona, Italy in the Art of Bronze Casting and Lost Wax Casting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Gained invaluable industry experience as Transportation production assistant on the Alan Parker film "Mississippi Burning," Tasked as rotating driver for acclaimed actors Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe, and Francis McDormand. Assisted Oscar-winning Makeup Artist David Craig Forrest on a large-scale Civil Rights March production scene.