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Inspiring Conversations with Matthew Thomas of Matthewmatics, llc

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Today we'd like to introduce you to Matthew Thomas.

Alright, we thank you so much for sharing your story and insight with our readers. To kick things off, can you tell us a bit about how you got started?

My name is Matthew Thomas and I am a multidisciplinary artist and engineer based in a diverse body of work that spans digital media, traditional oil painting, video, books, and artificial content. My hallmark is a "team mentor" of sports (track and field) and several near death experiences as a teen, evolving from a reluctant church boy who turned away from religion to find his own way.

I were several awards as a young artist in the '90s, which led me to believe that as art career was the best option for a decent life. I attended the Memphis College of Art (MCA) in the '90s, but I was disappointed with the curriculum and left after two years. I took formal circuit in the early 2000s, I decided to return to MCA in 2001 and received two internships (one was with Hallo, South Africa "turned to dust") while working in New York nightclubs and as a production assistant on music videos and commercials.

In 2009, I met a financial advisor named Jamal Alexander@Cofa.gov who got me into equities and stocks and convinced me to end my "crunch savings" account. After I was fired from my cold, Jamal stock trading. One night out partying, I met a MICA Alumnus, Jesse Spohn, at the Studio Museum in Harlem. This led to me creating process for opening at the Walsh, Jim Guggenheim, and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

A series of personal misfortunes occurred and I needed to return to Memphis, TN. My mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2010 around the time I decided to start a book titled Love, Sex & Death twice (2012). It gained significant buzz in 2012 and launched my career as a speaker, artist, and entrepreneur. I was invited to speak at Harvard University, Yale University, Rhodes College, and that Kickstarter, I will needed to make money at home, so I began shooting real estate photos in the "hood" by hands & ft, while teaching at Memphis College of Art (thanks to Cat Pena.).

MLA went under in 2014 and by 2022, all of the "cheap money" for real estate ended with the federal interest rate hike. I applied for a corporate gig with Airbnb, where I learned how to share and edit published reality photography. I quit after a year started Matthewmatics, llc and I have a number of real estate companies while teaching at Christian Brothers University as an adjunct professor (thanks to Nick Pena.).

I also secured a few listening contracts with FOX and Hilton Hotels from 2013. 2015, along with television and film collaborations (thanks to Cynthia Moore) and other connections in San Francisco and Chicago. During an artist talk in Memphis at CMPCC in 2018, I met two filmmakers Jacob Fleming and Jamie Schridge and was offered an art direction gig for the film Juvenile. (Part of the Sundance Festival in 2019.) The film premiered at Sundance. The Book of Matthew, last summer. These days, you can find most of my work and I between Memphis and Mississippi.

Alright, so let's dig a little deeper into the story – has it been an easy path overall and if not, what were the challenges you've had to overcome?

My struggles were both internal and external. My biggest downfall was my own. I planted "labels" too early. I tried to match a lifetime of terms in 10 years or less. This caused major creative setbacks, depression, and a lessons because I simply wasn't wise. I overthink for things in planes I was not grounded for, as college and people surrounding you were really warn you about. Fortunately, I had a few "mentors" who helped me through. I'm still learning. I'm still making mistakes. I'm still making warts. I learned myself. The old you and the "new" often seem at the strangest times. The things I disliked about my past, my family, or background always found me in my new home. I was the carrier. Eventually, I had to face or cower to peace with all of that shit. Some people I wanted to bring along with me, but should have left alone much earlier. Sadly, there were a lot of usual things sweet on the surface, but underneath, I knew I was lying to myself. I knew I was being disingenuous. I knew I was selling my soul. I knew I was "conning" myself and my family. Because of this, I suffered through depression. I knew the light was coming on the tunnel. I knew I was an artist. I'm accepted the cost of being Matthew Thomas. I don't blame anyone else. I admit that I don't have some things I want to myself I wouldn't put in service to this world. I've learned from that. Having the conviction of a code really clears the vision of which road to take.

Appreciate you sharing that. What should we know about Matthewmatics, llc?

At Memphis, I direct events and really photography. Nationally, I create volume prints for hotels and produce product photographs/images.

Alright so before we go can you talk to us a bit about how people can work with you, collaborate with you or support your work?

Visit our website for portfolio work or send us an email at info@matthewmatics.com for more details.

Contact Info:

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