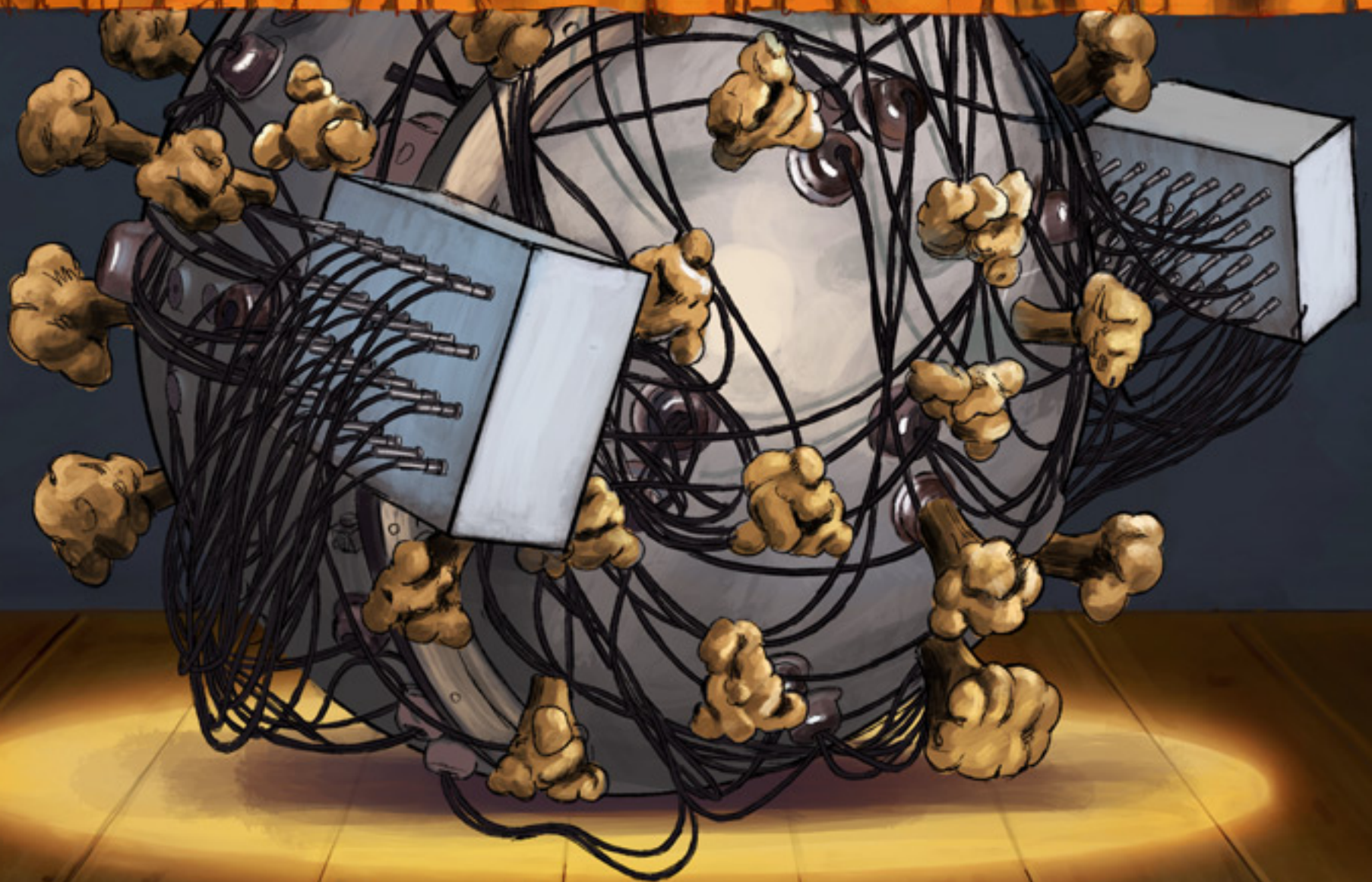


# COVID — DYSTOPIA —

ANALOG ARTIST DIGITAL WORLD PRESENTS A FILM BY THOMAS THORSPECKEN  
MUSIC BY ANDY MATCHETT FROM THE APOCALYPTIC ROCK MUSICAL KEY OF E

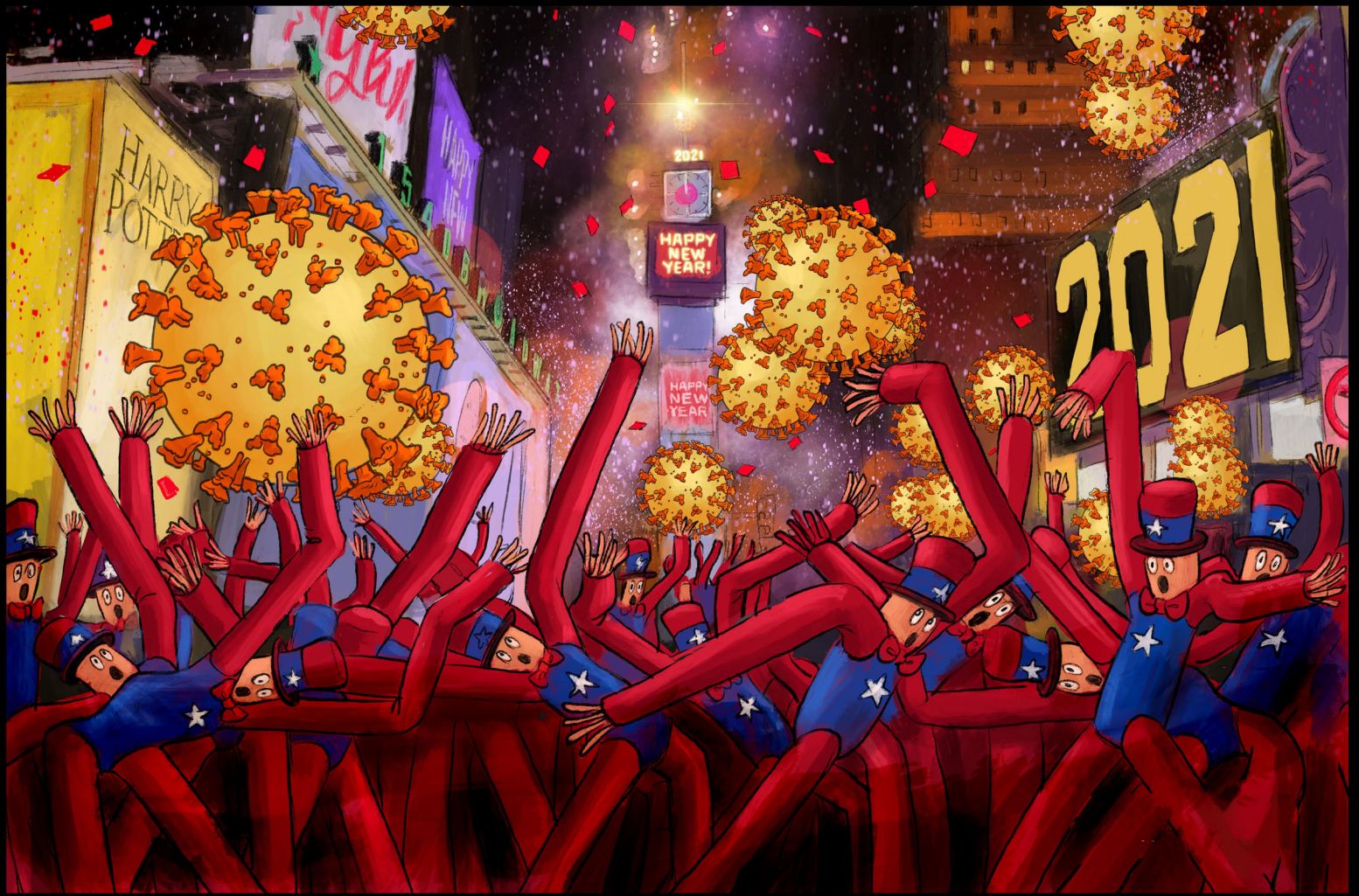




# COVID DYSTOPIA

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# COVID DYSTOPIA

## Logline:

We might be done with COVID, but COVID is not done with us.

## Synopsis:

An artist's surreal view of the failed attempts by humanity to stop a deadly airborne virus.

## Technical Info:

Title:	COVID Dystopia
Genre:	Animated Short, Horror, Documentary
Production year:	2023
Country of origin:	USA
Language:	English
Runtime:	4:17
Screen ratio:	16:9
Sound format:	Stereo



# COVID — DYSTOPIA —

## About the Film:

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, Thomas Thorspecken began creating a daily scene, commenting on COVID, politics, and the global and local impacts of this devastating and unprecedented time in history. The paintings in this short are just a fraction of the work created during the ongoing pandemic these past four years.



# COVID DYSTOPIA

## About the Creator:

**Thomas Thorspecken (Thor)** is an artist, urban sketcher, muralist, illustrator, animator, instructor, and a journalist. He attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City, before working as a freelance illustrator designing magazines and publications.



Thorspecken relocated to Orlando as an animation artist for Disney Feature Animation. Over ten years he worked on films such as *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *Mulan*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Lilo & Stitch*, to name a few.

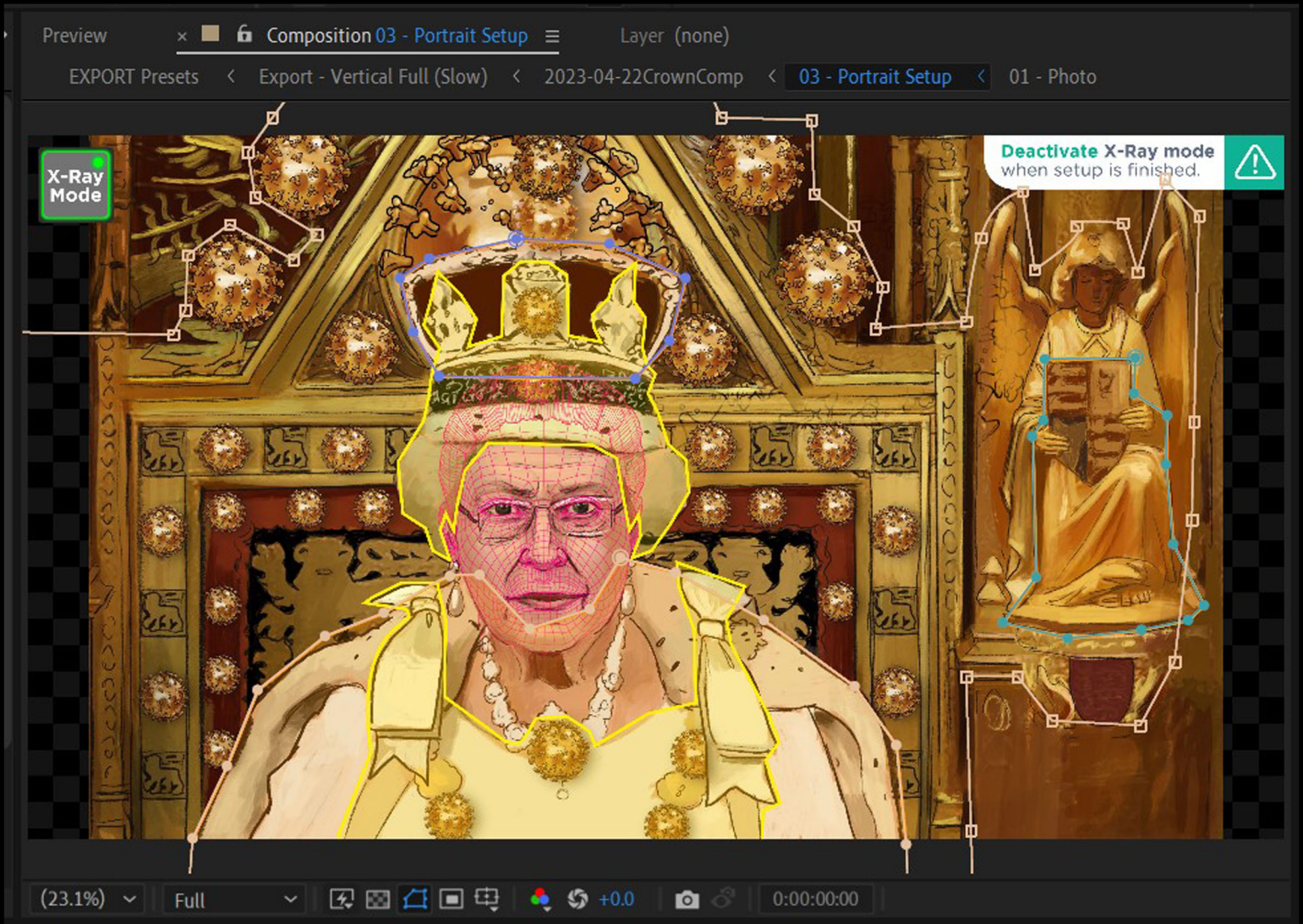
In March of 2020 Thor began doing one painting a day documenting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This series continued for three years. The paintings stopped on in May of 2023 when the National COVID Emergency was declared to be over. Recognizing the pandemic was ongoing, the focus switchd to production of the film to wake people up from their blissful amnesia.



Emily Gilbert

**Andy Matchett** A graduate of Orlando, Florida's renown Doctor Phillips VPA Magnet Program for Theatre, has been immersed in the arts for over 20 years.

Best known for his work in musical projects Andy Matchett and the Minks, Johnny Dee and the Starlights and The Monorail, Andy has earned praise from audiences and critics alike with a unique blend of DIY theatricality, indie ethic and pop sensibilities.



## Making of COVID Dystopia:

Since the start of the COVID Pandemic, Thomas Thorspecken has been doing a COVID-themed painting every day. When the National Public Health Emergency was slated to end on May 11, 2023, that became the motivating factor for the creation of this film.

The digital paintings and hand drawn animation were done on an iPad using Procreate, and Callipeg, each image was then depth mapped using Photoshop and After Effects, with VoluMax Pro 7 as a plug in.. Editing was done in Adobe Premiere Pro.

## Links:

Website: <https://analogartistdigitalworld.com/?s=COVID+Film>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/analogartist>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnalogArtistDigitalWorld/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/analogartistdigitalworld>



## FAQ:

### 1. When did production start?

The first painting was created March 12, 2020, after the World Health Organization announced the global pandemic.

### 2. How often would you create a painting and where did you get your ideas?

Each day started with reading the recent COVID news. My paintings were completed daily based on what was happening and posted to my blog with a write up.

### 3. When did you realize a film was the goal?

The film was inspired after seeing a short film on Twitter set to a Billy Joel song in March of 2023. I knew the music from "Key of E" written by Andy Matchett since I had sketched rehearsals for his post apocalyptic play. In an instant I knew I needed to collaborate with Andy and create the film.

### 4. When was the "Key of E written?"

That show was produced in 2013, yet every lyric relates directly to what has transpired with the pandemic. The music is prophetic.

### 5. How long did it take to produce the film?

Paintings were produced throughout the ongoing pandemic and I am still creating more paintings today. Production of the film took two months for a storyboard pass, then six months for animation and further editing.

### 6. Why the fast production schedule?

I wanted to finish production on May 11, 2023 when the United States would lift the COVID Public Health Emergency. The public was gas lit into believing the pandemic was over much sooner.

# COVID DYSTOPIA

We might be done with COVID, but COVID isn't done with us.

## Film Production

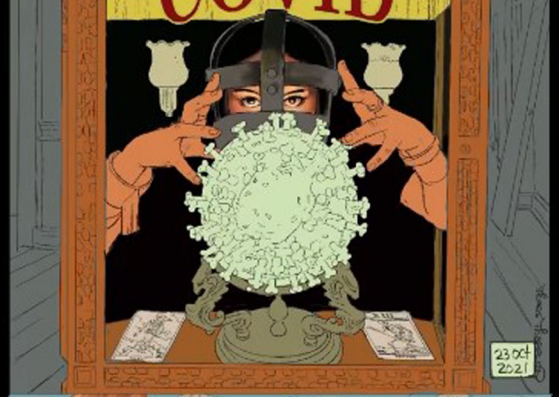
Producer, Director, Illustrator and Animator  
**Thomas Thorspecken**

Editorial and Technical Assistance  
**Pam Schwartz**

## Song Production

Just Can't Wait (For The Game To End) KEY OF E -  
An Apocalyptic Rock Musical  
By **Andy Matchett**

Also  
**Justin Beckler & Nick Baniewicz**



# Analog Artist Digital World

## Media Contact:

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407-450-0807

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local Artist to Premiere Shocking Film Chronicling Pandemic** *Over 200 original artworks detail global experience in four minutes*

ORLANDO, Fla. (May 16, 2023) – Central Florida artist Thomas Thorspecken (Thor) who formerly worked for Disney Feature Animation, released his newest project featuring more than 200 original digital paintings in a four-minute film. The film can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQWz4umY4QA>

Since January 2009, as a New Year’s resolution, Thorspecken created at least one watercolor or digital sketch a day documenting arts and culture in Central Florida for his blog, Analog Artist Digital World, culminating in more than 4,000 individual works of art illustrating the vibrancy of this community and beyond. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, he shifted his focus to creating a daily artistic commentary on COVID, politics, and both the global and local impacts of this devastating and unprecedented time in history.

“From the start of the COVID pandemic, minimizers falsely claimed the virus was no worse than the flu. After more than a million COVID deaths in America and mass infection becoming the accepted norm, minimizers persist,” Thorspecken cited as part of the rationale for his having created the jarring revue. The artist completed the film on May 11, 2023, when the United States officially lifted the COVID Emergency, despite Covid’s persistence. The paintings combat the willful denial and obfuscation of the facts of the past three years. The airborne virus cannot be seen, but in these paintings it takes center stage, a statement that ignoring the virus is deadly.

Inspired by an Artificial Intelligence-generated Tik Tok video illustrating Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire,” Thorspecken crafted his own AI (Artist Intelligence) generated film to the music from popular local musician, Andy Matchett’s, song “Just Can’t Wait (For the Game to End)” from his apocalyptic rock musical *Key of E*. Each gripping artwork flashes by, building on the dark time capsule of our shared experience. Though representing a mere fraction of his overall pandemic series, each was meticulously selected and timed to Matchett’s lyrics before being custom depth mapped and animated.

More information about the making of this film can be found at [AnalogArtistDigitalWorld.com](http://AnalogArtistDigitalWorld.com).

**Thomas Thorspecken (Thor)**, is an artist, Urban Sketcher, animator, and illustrative journalist living and working in Central Florida. He attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City, before working as a freelance illustrator designing magazines and publications. Thorspecken relocated to Orlando as an animation artist for Disney. He currently teaches at Elite Animation Academy and the Crealdé School of Art. Thor is always seeking new challenging projects, commissions, and ways to capture local life through art. Follow Thor on Instagram: [@analogartistdigitalworld](https://www.instagram.com/analogartistdigitalworld), Twitter: [@analogartist](https://twitter.com/analogartist), Facebook: Analog Artist Digital World, and subscribe to his blog: [www.analogartistdigitalworld.com](http://www.analogartistdigitalworld.com)