

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jerry Thomas, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Thomas, Jerry, 1952- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., |
| Dates: | March 9, 2018 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2018 |
| Physical Description: | 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:15:25). |
| Abstract: | Lawyer and gallery owner Jerry Thomas, Jr. (1952 -) was a lawyer for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and founded the Law Offices of Jerry Thomas, LLC and Jerry Thomas Arts. Thomas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 9, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2018_037 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and gallery owner Jerry Thomas, Jr. was born on June 8, 1952 in Washington, D.C to Jerry, Sr., and Estell Thomas. He received his B.A. degree in 1974 from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and his J.D. degree in 1977 from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. He also received a certificate in International Law, Business, Trade Commerce and Negotiations in 1986 from The Hague Academy of International Law in The Hague, the Netherlands.

After graduation, Thomas went to work for the U.S. Congress as a staff aide in Washington, D.C. In the late 1980s, he served as a lawyer at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. Thomas was named director of administration for the 1990 Goodwill Games where he was responsible for control of the overall operation of the international event. Thomas was admitted to the Georgia State Bar in 1990. He also established the Law Offices of Jerry Thomas, LLC in Atlanta, Georgia and served as managing partner for over sixteen years. In 1995, he founded Jerry Thomas Arts in Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as owner, art broker, curator and consultant.

His collection includes works from; Romare Bearden, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Thornton Dial and Sam Middleton. In 2012, Thomas' own Romare Bearden collection was featured when the Romare Bearden Foundation hired him to curate the art for Atlanta's observance of the artist's 100th birthday. In 2013, he set a record price for the sale of a Thornton Dial artwork to record producer Swizz Beatz. In 2015, Thomas collaborated with Alan Avery, owner of the Alan Avery Art Company in Atlanta, to showcase the work of Romare Bearden at an exhibition.

Thomas also has been a featured speaker at conferences, and in 2005, he delivered a speech at the National Black MBA Association Annual Conference on investing and collecting African American Art and has been quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, *BusinessWeek* magazine, and the *London Stock Exchange* regarding the investment potential of African American art. Thomas also served as chair of the Fulton County Arts Council. In addition,

Thomas served as a founding board member of the Edwin Moses Foundation, an initiative supporting science, technology, engineering, and math education.

Jerry Thomas, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 9, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 9, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and gallery owner Jerry Thomas, Jr. (1952 -) was a lawyer for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and founded the Law Offices of Jerry Thomas, LLC and Jerry Thomas Arts.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Thomas, Jerry, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Thomas, Jerry, 1952- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

Gallery Owner

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., March 9, 2018. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_001, TRT: 1:31:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_002, TRT: 2:31:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_003, TRT: 3:31:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_004, TRT: 4:30:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_005, TRT: 5:29:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_006, TRT: 6:29:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Thomas, Jr., Section A2018_037_001_007, TRT: 7:12:17 ?