

John Maeda

Quotes

*Design, Art, Thinking, People, Technology, Artist, World, Simplicity, Needs,
Focus, Creativity, Way, Computer, Looks, Growing Up, Skills, Ethos, Problem,
Thoughtful, Creating*

Our economy is built upon convergent thinkers, people that execute things, get them done. But artists and designers are divergent thinkers: they expand the horizon of possibilities.

~John Maeda

When people say, 'I don't get art' ... that means art is working.

~John Maeda

Simplicity is about subtracting the obvious and adding the meaningful.

~John Maeda

Design is a solution to a problem. Art is a question to a problem.

~John Maeda

Too little confidence, and you're unable to act; too much confidence, and you're unable to hear.

~John Maeda

Creativity's about ownership.

~John Maeda

The problem isn't how to make the world more technological. It's about how to make the world more humane again.

~John Maeda

Simplicity and complexity need each other.

~John Maeda

If you are going to have less things, they have to be great things.

~John Maeda

Skill in the digital age is confused with mastery of digital tools, masking the importance of understanding materials and mastering the elements of form.

~John Maeda

All I want to be is, someone that makes, new things and, thinks about them.

~John Maeda

A designer is someone who constructs while he thinks, someone for whom planning and making go together.

~John Maeda

Good problem-seekers are in higher demand than good problem-solvers.

~John Maeda

If you have no fear, no one has power over you.

~John Maeda

Anyone with a computer and a design program can create a page layout. But unless you're trained in design, it won't look very good and it won't communicate very well.

~John Maeda

Apple products aren't simple technologies by any stretch, but there is a beautiful simplicity to them.

~John Maeda

The simplest way to achieve simplicity is through thoughtful reduction.

~John Maeda

If there were a prerequisite for the future successful digital creative, it would be the passion for discovery.

~John Maeda

People who can focus, get things done. People who can prioritize, get

the right things done.

~John Maeda

In the '70s and '80s there was an attempt in K-12 to teach science through art or art through science. The challenge today is how do you build the ethos of art and design into the academy of science.

~John Maeda

Really great products, like @nest, have #design baked in from the beginning instead of slapped on at the end.

~John Maeda

Information is expanding daily. How to get it out visually is important.

~John Maeda

Corporations today, by their razor sharp focus on the 'bottom line' and quarterly earnings, have lost their ability to innovate.

~John Maeda

Think of the computer as a spiritual space for thinking.

~John Maeda

I have a confession: I'm not a man of simplicity. I spent my entire early career making complex stuff. Lots of complex stuff.

~John Maeda

When you're younger, think less and do more; when you're older, do less and think more.

~John Maeda

No place in the US better exemplifies the ethos to engineer new digital technologies than Silicon Valley

~John Maeda

The difference between closing or opening your eyes is the choice between the imagined vs real. Blinking is only human.

~John Maeda

Design provides solutions, art asks questions.

~John Maeda

Growing up, I found I was good at two things: Art and Math. To hear my parents say it, though, it was only, 'John is good at Math.

~John Maeda

As a genre, videogames take our minds on journeys, and we can control and experience them much more interactively than passively - especially when they are well-designed.

~John Maeda

Videogames are indeed design: They're sophisticated virtual machines that echo the mechanical systems inside cars.

~John Maeda

The artist needs to understand the truth that lies at the bottom of an enigma.

~John Maeda

I don't like creating software anymore. It's too exact. It's like karate; there's no room for error.

~John Maeda

I don't really love computers.

~John Maeda

All artists yearn to struggle, when they struggle they know they're alive.

~John Maeda

Knowledge makes everything simpler.

~John Maeda

Organization makes a system of many appear fewer.

~John Maeda

Artists change how we see the world - and that can have value in the way people do business.

~John Maeda

Communication in every which way is everything for the leader.

~John Maeda

The best scientists that I've met are those that are humanists and scientists at the same time.

~John Maeda

Art shows us that human beings still matter in a world where money talks the loudest, where computers know everything about us, and where robots fabricate our next meal and also our ride there.

~John Maeda

With regard to what is designed really well, I think people are the best-designed objects in the world. Seriously.

~John Maeda

Art is a conduit toward human needs and perception.

~John Maeda

Research universities need excellent means to communicate and express their results to regular people.

~John Maeda

Teaching is the rare profession where the customer isn't always right

and needs to be told so appropriately.

~John Maeda

Design is about crafting an experience that is unfamiliar enough to feel novel, yet familiar enough to instill confidence.

~John Maeda

Technology makes possibilities. Design makes solutions. Art makes questions. Leadership makes actions.

~John Maeda

My role is to find strategic insights as to where design can have the most business impact. A designer can bring a viewpoint of not just aesthetics, but economics and usage.

~John Maeda

One of the challenges to our nation today is overcoming the notion that art is kind of a nice-to-have, when in reality art is a need-to-have.

~John Maeda

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