

OLUSOLA AKINSEYE

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Portfolio: www.behance.net/olusolaakinseye / Journal: <http://olusolaakinseye.blogspot.com>

Art Direction . Visual Storytelling . Creative Team Management

Accomplished and multitalented Creative Studio Manager, award-winning illustrator, published author and design artist with domestic and international experience in education, public service, entertainment and business. Result-oriented, decisive leadership with proven success in pioneering new creative direction and product for a specific market using available technology to achieve excellent results with a high return on investment both in market value and reusable intellectual property. Track record of excelling in dynamic, demanding environments while remaining pragmatic and focused.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Result-oriented imaginative vision and direction
 - Organising and structuring creative workflow for optimum performance
 - Networking and negotiations with relevant professionals and collaborators
 - Proficiency in requisite skill sets- generate original ideas for public and media relations
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ILLUSTRATION & DESIGN STUDIO, 4 Oluwanisola Close, Fakile, Ifo LGA, Ogun State

Illustrator and Design Professional: Portraitist, Illustrator, Graphics consultant (2000-Present)

Provide creative solutions in publishing, branding and visual concepts for local and foreign clients including CitiBank, Comix35, Lantern Books, Life Press and independent publishers such as Mkuki na Nyota, Durano, Bumble Bee and St Daniels. Complete proposals and concept work for Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Samsung Mobile and Keystone Bank. Created works for and partner with nonprofits like National Democratic Institute, Designers against Child Slavery and Pecha Kucha.

Connect directly with clients or agents- listen, understand the need and provide effective solutions within budget. Provide professional advice and assistance with relevant information. Hands-on studio practice that guarantees attention to detail and quality results using artistic media ranging from fully digital to traditional media. Responsible business practice that maintains fully functional studio with up-to-date equipment and original software.

Key Achievements

- Over a decade's practice that successfully completed clients projects in millions of Naira
- Provided proposal, layout and design under very tight schedules
- Established trusting relationships with clients, designers, editors and other professionals
- 100% faithful safeguard of clients' intellectual property rights

THE COMICS HUT, Literamed Publications Nig. Ltd, Lagos State

Studio Manager: Art direction, Content development, Team building (August 2004-October 2014)

Provided creative and strategic leadership for over N50 million investment in the development, creation and management of Cowrie Comics and Living Scrolls comic book imprints and related storybooks.

Supervised and unified creative efforts such that the overall visual appearance appealed to the target audience. Made decisions about visual elements and what artistic style to use. Led studio operations and strategic decisions with full responsibility for bottom-line factors, including creation of marketable concepts, development through every stage of studio production and scheduling turnaround time. Coordinated a team of editors and proofreaders, illustrators and painters, graphic artists and an admin officer. Liaised with Sales and Marketing for useful feedback; worked closely with Preproduction and Printing Press to achieve desired production outcome and quality.

Key Achievements

- Created educational, child-friendly and culturally relevant publications that are attractive to children of various reading levels thereby birthing a new vista of business for the company
- Over 250 multi-genre titles created using various media to produce a proudly Afrocentric cornucopia of comics and storybooks available for sale worldwide
- Generated original in-house publicity catalogues and brochures to drive awareness and sales

PAINTING STUDIO, Oregon, Lagos State and Port Harcourt, Rivers State

Painting Artist: Art supplier/contractor, Experimentalist, Portraitist (1997-1999)

Developed a personal style of using traditional media including oils, acrylics, watercolour, and pastels.

Provided artworks to personal and corporate collections such as Union Bank Plc (2 branches), Chartered Aluminum Port Harcourt Office and Tola Contractors Nigeria Limited, Bonny Island.

Key achievements

- Acquired practical information and skill in art-related business negotiations
- Exposed to business interactions with expatriates with broader artistic tastes
- On-the-job training in the rudiments of operating a legitimate business
- Developed a personal art style and exhibited at the 1997 Enugu trade fair

LIFE PRESS LIMITED, Igando, Lagos State

NYSC intern: Illustrator, Paste-up Artist (1994-1995)

NYSC intern: Scriptor, Illustrator (1995-1996)

Designed illustrations for literature books, posters and magazines like Life, Campus Pearl and Women Mirror. Authored and illustrated comic booklets for the Campus Community within and outside Nigeria.

Served under an art director as an illustrator. Was self-motivated, effective and efficient at work.

Key achievements

- Earned promotion and recognition from entry-level illustrator and paste-up artist to full writer/artist professional
- Created the Campus comic series with several titles still in print today, 19 years later
- Learnt the organizational structure of a publishing company and a fully staffed graphics studio
- Worked on products (some in foreign languages) with print runs in 100,000s

EDUCATION AND MILESTONES

Post Graduate Diploma in Education (on-going), National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna

Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science, University of Lagos, Akoka

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, University of Lagos, Akoka

Senior Secondary Certificate Examination, Federal Government College, Enugu

Market Behaviour Research

A study on the use of comic books as supplementary learning materials in primary schools
Under the supervision of National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna (2013)

Extracurricular Reading Habits of Preteens and Teens

Under the auspices of PIZAZZ! Magazine (2012)

Awards and Honorable Mentions

2014 **LinkedIn** Professional Brand Meter of 'Personal Magnetism' for online portfolio

2008 Children Illustrator Award for Africa, **Macmillan UK**

2007 **Astrid Lindgren Award** Longlist

2004 **Noma Awards** Honorable Mention for *Lanre and the Queen of the Stream*

Online Portfolio Special Features

ILLUSTRATIONSERVED, AFRICAN DIGITAL ARTIST and '40 Amazing African Digital Artworks'