



07747 116 926
owenconnolly@hotmail.com
portfolio | owenconnollydesign.com



PROFILE

Highly committed, adaptable Art Director & Designer with over 20 years' experience in publishing.

KEY SKILLS

EDITORIAL Broad knowledge of Magazines; Publishing; Art Direction; Typography; Repro/retouching; Layout

PROJECT / CHANGE MANAGEMENT Guided the art team through major shifts in working practices, and navigating a new publishing system.

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT Always works to develop extremely good working relationships with other departments and suppliers – Production, Premedia, IT, HR, illustration agencies, freelancers, and photographers and PRs when required.

LEADERSHIP A supportive leader who has recruited, coached, mentored and retained many talented team members, taking great pride in watching them develop and grow.

CAREER SUMMARY

JANUARY 2017 – PRESENT

Freelance for various publishing clients: Hearst UK (*Asda Good Living*, *Good Housekeeping*); Immediate Media Co. (*Radio Times*); BBC Worldwide (*BBC Good Food*, *Easy Cook*) Seven (*Sainsbury's Magazine*); *John Lewis Partnership*; Egmont Publishing (*We Love Pop!*); Art Director on *You're Welcome*, a free London lifestyle paper published by Emblem Group, aimed mainly at visitors to London.

HEARST MAGAZINES UK JULY 2004 – DECEMBER 2016

Group Art Director – *Weeklies Hub* May 2015 - December 2016

Art Director – *Reveal* magazine July 2006 – May 2015

Deputy Art Director – *Reveal* March 2006 – July 2006

Art Editor – *Reveal* July 2004 – March 2006

NORTHERN & SHELL NOVEMBER 2003 – JULY 2004

Deputy Art Director – *Star* magazine 2003 – 2004

EMAP 1996 – 2003

Deputy Art Editor – *more!* magazine 2002 – 2003

Art Editor – *Smash Hits* magazine 2000 – 2002

Senior Designer – *Smash Hits* 1999 – 2000

Designer – *Smash Hits* 1996 – 1999

EDUCATION

BA (Hons) Graphic Design

Foundation Diploma in Art & Design Newcastle College

3 A Levels / 10 GCSEs

IT KNOWLEDGE

Adobe CC – primarily Indesign and Photoshop; Censhare; Microsoft Word; Wordpress; GoPublish; Powerpoint

References available upon request





07747 116 926

owenconnolly@hotmail.com

portfolio | owenconnollydesign.com

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

FREELANCE JANUARY 2017 – PRESENT

Hearst UK (*Asda Good Living*, *Good Housekeeping*); Immediate Media Co. (*Radio Times*); BBC Worldwide (*BBC Good Food*, *Easy Cook*) Seven (*Sainsbury's Magazine*); *John Lewis Partnership*; Egmont Publishing (*We Love Pop!*); Art Director on *You're Welcome*, a free London lifestyle paper published by Emblem Group, aimed mainly at visitors to London.

HEARST MAGAZINES UK JULY 2004 – DECEMBER 2016

Group Art Director – *Weeklies Hub* May 2015 – December 2016

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Running a busy art department working across three titles – *Reveal*, *Best and Real People*, plus extra periodical specials.
- Producing layouts for all three titles and covers to get on the newsstand in three very competitive markets.
- Directing the Art department in producing approximately 250 pages per week from blank page to proof stage, plus more during the busy and up-paged Christmas period as well as specials.
- Directing celebrity, fashion, food and still-life photoshoots.
- Commissioning illustrations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Consistently worked to meet extremely tight deadlines without fail, getting three weekly magazines out the door without ever missing a deadline.
- Effectively managed ten people through some challenging times and kept team morale as high as the level of sheer hard work put in.
- Helped to pilot the new hubbing system in Hearst, and the successful model has been upheld as the standard by which the company migrated the other monthly titles and departments.
- After the three magazines hubbed, built excellent working relationships with three editors and their teams, acknowledging their different working practices and personalities and processing all their needs and visions for their titles through the Art Hub.
- Undertaking live redesign work.

Art Director – *Reveal magazine* July 2006 – May 2015

Deputy Art Director – *Reveal magazine* March 2006 – July 2006

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recruiting, directing and managing a team of five designers.
- Designing templates and layouts; producing covers every week to engage and hard-sell on the newsstand in a ruthless and competitive market; redesigning periodically to keep the title looking fresh and exciting.
- Directing celebrity, fashion, food and still-life photoshoots.
- Commissioning illustrations and sourcing some excellent freelance designers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Won National Magazine Company Eagle Awards 2007 Cover of the Year.
- BSME shortlisted for Art Director of the Year (weekly or fortnightly category) in 2010.
- Built up a talented and enthusiastic team who produced the magazine in ever-more challenging circumstances and intense deadlines, and delivered over and above expectations.
- Involved with outside start-up company Kaldor developing templates for the digital issue of *Reveal* magazine, producing the issue in Wordpress, creating the pages and uploading them for digital publishing and timed release. Before we took the digital issue in-house, I also remotely directed a design team in Malaysia to produce the content.
- Collaborated with the editor on key decisions.
- Saw the magazine and the team through many changes – not just redesigns but implementing major shifts in working practices.
- Took repro in-house, doing our own retouching, cut-outs and proofing.
- Migration to the Censhare publishing system.
- The team's ability to accept, adapt quickly and engage with new systems was appreciated and noted by centralised departments such as IT and HR.
- Directed a skeleton team in 2009 to produce a glossy 132-page souvenir magazine, turned round in 48 hours immediately after the death of Michael Jackson. This was the first to hit the newsstand and Campaign commented that it was the best of the tributes.

Art Editor – *Reveal magazine* July 2004 – March 2006

- Joined the magazine as part of the launch team, supporting the Art Director and Deputy Art Director, producing layouts and helping shape what was to become the finished template.

NORTHERN & SHELL NOVEMBER 2003 – JULY 2004

Deputy Art Director – *Star magazine* 2003 – 2004

EMAP 1996 – 2003

Deputy Art Editor – *more! magazine* 2002 – 2003

Art Editor – *Smash Hits magazine* 2000 – 2002

Senior Designer – *Smash Hits* 1999 – 2000

Designer – *Smash Hits* 1996 – 1999