



Michael Politakis

Design manager

London, UK

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Links

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Languages

English (Fluent)

About

Fashion speaks to us all on a personal level. For me, fashion is a form of art and self-expression. It is the skin we choose. I am a highly innovative and resourceful fashion designer and design manager with 7+ years of experience creating fashion-forward designs and contemporary collections, along with nearly five years managing large creative teams, for some incredible luxury brands. As a design manager, I pride myself in leading a team to deliver excellence, striving to always challenge, inspire and, grow their skill sets. As a senior designer, I have built brands with creative and brand directors, delivered collections from initial conception through to sampling and in some instances production stages, and have an excellent understanding of garment construction (having worked for both bespoke and ready-to-wear brands). I harbour a strong understanding of fabrics, and my previous career as a graphic designer and illustrator sees my hand drawing, CAD, and print development skills as unmatched. I have developed and managed critical paths, have been responsible for monthly cost reports, and led weekly design presentations with my Head of Product and CEO. Furthermore, I am an exceptional communicator with the ability to foster strong relationships with my team, peers, and key stakeholders.

BRANDS WORKED WITH

- DISTURBIA FEATURED
- JC FASHIONS
- KILLSTAR
- LOST INK & LABELRAIL

Experience



DESIGN MANAGER

KILLSTAR | Jan 2022 - Now

FULL TIME. WOMEN'S AND MENSWEAR

Leads a team of five in-house fashion designers, and 20 freelance fashion designers, graphic designers, and illustrators.

I excel in developing and managing the design team's processes, continuously updating design systems and ensure best design practices are implemented

Work closely with development, tech, and merchandising department managers to ensure the best product possible is selected and successfully signed off, working in collaboration with the company CEO

I produce creative and thorough briefs for the design team, our suppliers, freelance artists, and fabric mills and ensure they are executed on time and in line with our critical path.

I continuously develop innovative new ideas that move the brand forward and stay ahead of our competition and display an in-depth understanding of our customers and market trends.

I lead fittings where, with my team, we engineer the best results for our garments, saving costs, and time and always seeking the most sustainable outcomes.

Nurture and grow the development of my team, a skill I take the most pride in

I successfully lead ad-hoc cross-functional/brand-wide projects such as expanding our growing beauty brand Coven Cosmetics and assisting with the sourcing of new suppliers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

Receiving praise and approval from Tim Burton on our soon-to-launch MGM Wednesday collaboration

DESIGN MANAGER

JC FASHIONS | Jan 2020 - Jan 2022

FULL TIME. WOMEN'S AND MENSWEAR

Led a team of four in-house fashion designers, and 10 freelance fashion designers, graphic designers, and marketing coordinators.

Managed my team to design fashion-forward, trend-driven collections over multi-product categories, across multiple accounts, including Free People, Topshop, ASOS, Urban Outfitters, Dispinea, and more

Led and worked with client's design teams on projects, managing mood boards, sourcing, fabric and trim development, designing and sampling

Excelled in presenting and selling collections to clients, backing up our ideas with proven market information and reports from our sales team

Collaborated with account and sales managers to drive trend-driven collections to clients, using sales data and key trend reports

Cost-engineered garments with the tech team, meeting client standards and ensuring cost effective and sustainable practices were met

Established strong communications with our merchandise team overseas, ensuring best manufacturing practices were executed at all times, making sure all specs were followed, fit issues fixed, and any production flaws overcome in a manner that best suited the client and business

Managed and grew the development of my team

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

Led the design team that successfully launched the Labelrail influencer program onto Walmart.com in 2022

● SENIOR DESIGNER

LOST INK & LABELRAIL | Jan 2018 - Jan 2020

FULL TIME. WOMEN'S AND MENSWEAR

Led a design team of 3 designers.

Created seasonal design strategies in collaboration with the design team and buyers.

Exceptionally managed collections from initial concepts through to production for Labelail, ensuring collections reflected the influencer's vision, and presented collections to the talent and head of buying at ASOS for sign-off.

I developed incredible designs for various product categories, including woven casuals, denim, outerwear, knitwear and jersey, lingerie, loungewear, swimwear, shoes, bags, and other accessories.

I meticulously led all fabric development for Lost Ink and Labelrail, including knit yarns, denim washes, print development, and strike-offs.

I ensured my team followed key dates on the critical path to ensure collections arrived in a timely manner.

Collaborated with marketing and e-commerce divisions to deliver an exceptional brand vision.

● LEAD DESIGNER

DISTURBIA FEATURED | Jan 2022

WOMENSWEAR. Led design team in design, print and developed fabrics for April, SS24

● SENIOR DESIGNER

| Jan 2022

WOMENSWEAR. FW23 PARTY COLLECTION. Led design team in design, trim and fabric development

Education & Training

2010

● AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FASHION DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Bachelor of Technology,

2008

● University of South Australia

Bachelor of Visual Communication, majoring in Illustration and Graphic Design.,