

JOSEPH HOLT

EMMY AWARD-WINNING ART DIRECTOR | VISUAL DEVELOPMENT | PRODUCTION DESIGN

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Emmy Award-winning Art Director and Visual Development Artist with 25+ years of experience creating visual worlds and leading production art for major animation and entertainment companies including Disney Television Animation, WildBrain, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Walt Disney Imagineering. Specialized in 2D animation, visual development, background and environment design, color, production design, and creative leadership. Proven ability to establish distinctive visual languages, guide artists, and translate concepts into production-ready artwork for high-profile animated series, specials, and immersive entertainment experiences. Recognized for combining strong visual storytelling, design judgment, and digital production expertise with the ability to adapt to evolving creative technologies and AI-assisted workflows.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WILDBRAIN STUDIOS — ART DIRECTOR

Vancouver, BC / Remote | 2021-2025

- Directed visual development, design direction, and production art for major animated properties and specials.
- Camp Snoopy: Led character and environment design, color direction, visual consistency, and production art for the Peanuts IP.
- The Snoopy Show: Directed visual development and background design while maintaining a cohesive visual language across production.
- Collaborated with artists and production teams from concept development through final production assets.

DISNEY TELEVISION ANIMATION — ART DIRECTOR

Los Angeles, CA | 2012-2016

- Art Directed multiple seasons of Mickey Mouse Shorts, helping define its distinctive modern visual language.
- Led artistic direction across backgrounds, color, design, and production art.
- EMMY AWARD WINNER — 2013: Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation — Art Direction, “Croissant de Triomphe.”

DISNEY TELEVISION ANIMATION — BACKGROUND PAINTER / VISUAL DEVELOPMENT

2016-2017

- Created production backgrounds and visual development artwork for Big Hero 6: The Series.

WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING — ART DIRECTION / VISUAL DEVELOPMENT

Contract / Intermittent | 2016-2022

- Provided art direction, visual development, concept art, and production artwork for Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway at Disney's Hollywood Studios.
- Contributed to thematic design, visual storytelling, attraction environments, and production integration.

NICKELODEON • CARTOON NETWORK • FILM ROMAN • THE ORPHANAGE — BACKGROUND DESIGN • VISUAL DEVELOPMENT • PRODUCTION ART

1998-2012

- Selected projects: My Life as a Teenage Robot, El Tigre, The Mighty B!, Danny Phantom, Time Squad, Sym-Bionic Titan, Mission Hill, Tron: Uprising, The Ricky Gervais Show, The Oblongs and others.

CORE EXPERTISE

Art Direction • Visual Development • Production Design • 2D Animation • Environment & Background Design • Color & Color Keys • Visual Storytelling • Creative Leadership • IP Development • Photoshop-Based Digital Workflows • Production Art • Theme Park / Experiential Design • AI-Assisted Creative Workflows

SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENT

EMMY AWARD — 2013 | Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation — Art Direction | Disney's Mickey Mouse Shorts: “Croissant de Triomphe”

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts — California State University, Fullerton | Fullerton, CA | 1995

PORTFOLIO josephholtart.com

ART DIRECTION • VISUAL DEVELOPMENT • PRODUCTION DESIGN