Nicola Crossan

Creative Leadership | Innovation | Workflow Evolution

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Interactive CV
LinkedIn

Creative leader with 8+ years shaping high-impact design across retail, fashion, and lifestyle brands. I've pioneered systems that reduce repetitive production tasks - *freeing up time for high-value creative work.* Combining hands-on design expertise with innovation and leadership, I elevate brand output while keeping creativity at the core and future-proofing design in an ever-evolving industry.

Design Manager

Ann Summers & Knickerbox | September 2019 - Present

- Lead a team of six delivering creative across e-commerce, CRM, marketing, paid media, packaging & POS.
- Pioneer automation within the creative team, introducing Al-driven workflows now being adopted company-wide.
- Streamline briefing and approval processes, reducing turnaround times and freeing time for higher-value creative.
- Partner with e-commerce, CRM & marketing teams to deliver cohesive multi-channel campaigns under tight deadlines.
- Maintain consistent brand identity and voice across all digital and print channels.
- Mentor and develop designers, raising creative standards and fostering a proactive, solutions-first culture.

Senior Digital Designer

Secret Sales | May 2017 - September 2019

- Directed creative execution across e-commerce, CRM, social and paid media.
- Managed and mentored a team of five, building skills and collaboration within a fast-paced retail environment.
- Delivered multiple campaigns simultaneously, consistently meeting tight deadlines.
- Presented and pitched concepts to senior stakeholders, securing alignment on creative strategy.
- Elevated brand output by applying industry best practices and adapting to evolving digital trends.

Education

BA (Hons) Fashion Design | 2009 – 2012 Birmingham City University 2:1

Software

- Adobe Creative Suite (XD, Photoshop,
 After Effects, Illustrator, InDesign)
- Microsoft 365 & Collaboration Platforms
- Automation & Al-Assisted Design Tools

Skills

Creative & Leadership

- Creative Direction & Campaign Execution
- Stakeholder Management & Team Mentorship
- Cross-Channel Brand Consistency

Innovation & Systems

- Workflow Automation & Process Optimisation
- Al-Assisted Design & Emerging Tools
- Design Systems & Scalable Templates