



## Michael Coakes: A Professional Summary

My career began surprisingly soon after graduating from high school, when I was offered an apprenticeship at a nearby graphic design shop. That led to a position as a Graphic Designer for the same firm until I responded to an offer to be the senior art director of a small B2B/B2C ad agency.

During this time, I taught myself how to use an airbrush, created illustrations, and did simple (analog) retouching. A couple of years later, in 1986, I decided to begin my career as a freelance Illustrator.

By 1996, I had transitioned to a fully digital workflow. Everything seemed much more manageable. Graphic Design and retouching became a more significant part of my workload.

After art-directing many photo shoots, a client asked that I take the role of photographer on a project. Soon, I was hooked on this new, challenging discipline, and it wasn't long before that was my primary offering.

In 2017, I was presented with a significant opportunity to join my largest client, Clutch Studios, in a full-time capacity. I accepted the role of Photo Studio Director and Lead Photographer, a position that not only marked a milestone in my career but also allowed me to showcase my leadership and creative skills

Within a couple of years, they found themselves more focused on selling CG and Motion Graphics and let selling the photo department fall to the side. We agreed that I would revert back to a freelance role with them so I could take on projects they weren't interested in.

When COVID began, they sublet their space, and I found my own studio again. I have happily been working as a freelancer again in retouching, photography, design, video editing, and illustration.

A list of software I am proficient in using is available on the following page. Please feel free to ask me any questions.

1204 TYRELL AVE., PARK RIDGE, IL 60068  
michael@coakes.com  
312.576.0333

FREELANCE DESIGN • ART DIRECTION • RETOUCHING • PHOTOGRAPHY • ILLUSTRATION



## **Skills**

- Photography Canon/Hasselblad/Nikon
- Digital Retouching
- Digital Illustration
- Page Layout/Graphic Design/Branding

## **Software**

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe InDesign
- Adobe AfterEffects
- Adobe Bridge
- Capture One
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft Teams
- Microsoft Word

**Samples of my work can be found on my website**

[coakes.com](http://coakes.com)

1204 TYRELL AVE., PARK RIDGE, IL 60068  
michael@coakes.com  
312.576.0333

FREELANCE DESIGN • ART DIRECTION • RETOUCHING • PHOTOGRAPHY • ILLUSTRATION