

Olu E. Dada

Creative Director.
Visual Communications.

01 of 03.

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Location.

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www.oludada.com
Dubai, UAE.

A multi-disciplinary creative director and visual communications designer that has consistently and successfully helped launch and develop brands of all sizes, across a wide spectrum of industries in designer, art director and creative director roles. With over 10 years of cross-cultural strategic brand development, traditional and digital visual communications design, digital user interface, experience design and public relations visual content for clients in the Europe, The Middle East, West Africa and South America.

Experience

Finsbury Glover Hering. Middle East & Africa.

PR and Communications Firm.

Managing Director - Head of Design MENA. Apr 2021 - Present.

- Lead the growth of the the visual communications function, service offer and verticals for the FGH Middle East business.
- Lead and direct in-house design team and all creative outputs for Middle East client visual communications activities – across brand development, digital communications, user interface and experience design, online and offline campaigns – events – brand launches and social media content creation.
- Outlined and initiate integration of design/visual communications with larger FGH ME's content, digital and data/analytics teams
- Set, improve and guarantee the firms visual communications standards, whilst elevating the quality of internal and external communications FGH ME.
- Team management and planning, as well as inspire, train and guide the growth and development of creative team members.
- Developing and ensuring presentation approaches and standards whilst reviewing, creating and disseminating briefs from client information and objectives whilst also obtaining client feedback and approvals in a client facing role.
- Working (as well as commuting) with Saudi Arabia clients in Saudi Arabia and also the broader Middle East region.

Finsbury Glover Hering. Middle East & Africa.

PR and Communications Firm.

Creative Director. Dec 2018 - Apr 2021.

- Successfully established an in-house visual communications function and service offer for the FGH Middle East business – as well as contributing to the growth of new creative business verticals and service offers.
- Lead and direct in-house design team and all creative outputs for Middle East client visual communications activities – across brand development, digital communications, user interface and experience design, online and offline campaigns – events – brand launches and social media content creation.
- Outlined and initiate integration of design/visual communications with larger FGH ME's content, digital and data/analytics teams.
- Set, improve and guarantee the firms visual communications standards, whilst elevating the quality of internal and external communications FGH ME.
- Team management and planning, as well as inspire, train and guide the growth and development of creative team members.
- Developing and ensuring presentation approaches and standards whilst reviewing, creating and disseminating briefs from client information and objectives whilst also obtaining client feedback and approvals in a client facing role.
- Leading team member of the internal global design team responsible for the rebrand of Finsbury Glover Hering as a result of the 2020 merger.

Clients Included. Arcapita / BioNTech / Dallah Health / Dubai Investment / GAMI / MiSK / KSA Ministry of Health / Ma'aden / NCB – Samba (SNB Merger) / NCA – Global Cybersecurity Forum / QFZA / Sipchem - Sahara merger / Saudi Green Initiative / Saudi Exchange (Tadawul) / SRMG / World Defense Show / as well as multiple regional IPOs.

PublicisLive. Dubai.

Institutional Event Experience Firm.

Design (Visual Comms) Director. Jul 2018 - Dec 2018.

- Defining and elevating visual communications philosophy within the firm globally.
- Management of all visual communications design outputs of the firm (print, digital and spatial environmental design) and brand development direction within the event and experience spaces.
- Developing brand position strategies by examining client goals and objectives.
- Working and liaising with the clients, 3D spatial design team, production team, client serving and project management teams as well as external suppliers.
- Improving the quality of results by studying, evaluating, and re-designing processes.

Clients Included. The UAE Government / United Nations Data Forum / Abu Dhabi Media Council / MiSK Foundation / Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation / World Economic Forum / World Government Summit / Global Economic Congress / Arab Strategy Forum / Mohammed Bin Rashid Government Excellence Awards

The Lettuce Lab. Dubai.

Creative Studio.

Founder & Creative Director. Jun 2015 - Jun 2018.

- Management of all creative outputs of the studio i.e project planning, scheduling, resource management, training, creative direction, disseminating and creating briefs, liaising with external suppliers and production outfits, planning, management of creative team design execution and more.
- Identifying global creative talent and business opportunities to drive business strategy for clients and firm alike.
- Resource allocation, monitoring and managing balance-sheet and company finances.
- Creating and directing Hands-on design involvement with the creative team.

Clients Included. Marriott Renaissance Hotels / Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority FCSA / The Espresso Lab / BY HB / Savarin / Tabattera / Blacksmith Coffee Company Abu Dhabi / DRVN Coffee / Crisol / Ethan & Co. / Artar properties / Wasl Properties / UAE Formula 4 / Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) / BreakBread.ae / Crescent Enterprises / Premidnight.net

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Experience continued

Independent. Dubai.

Freelance Visual Communications Designer & Branding Consultant. Oct 2014 - May 2015.

Creative freelancer and brand development consultant working direct with clients and with creative agencies.

Clients Included. AirArabia / The UAE Ministry of Education / Ittihad Football Club / Corys / Hepworth / Spark.me / Ruya / Darna Media

Start Design Group. Dubai.

Multi-Channel Agency.
Senior Designer + Illustrator. Jan 2013 - Oct 2014

Graphic designer and Illustrator. Digital, print package, UI and UX responsibilities. Creative concepts and execution.

Clients Included. Dubai Airports / Hamad International Airport (HIA) / Transaero / Mubadala / Barclays / Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) / Simply Life / Etihad Rail / Emaar / YAS Island / X Dubai / Midas Safety.

Saatchi & Saatchi. Dubai.

Advertising Agency.
Graphic Designer. Sep 2012 - Dec 2012.

Graphic designer brought in to assist in the creation of F&B outlets for the Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah.
Clients Included. Waldorf Astoria.

Design Variations. Dubai.

Architecture + Interior Design Firm.
In-House Junior Designer. Feb 2012 - Sep 2012.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.

American University In Dubai, UAE.
Visual Communication, Graphic Design.
May 2009 - May 2013.

Certificate In Business Studies.

London School of Business and Management, London, UK.
Jan 2004 - Aug 2004.

A-Level Programme .

Lancing College, Sussex, UK.
In Business Studies, Computing and Design Technology. Sep 2001 - Jan 2003.

Competencies

Business Growth & Offer Development.

Experience setting up and development new business verticals across a number of creative fields including Brand development, visual communications, events and public relations.

Direction + Management + Design.

Extensive experience directing, designing and managing creative and visual communication output. Agency startup, management and operational experience able to work with and manage internal and external creatives of multiple disciplines.

Brand & Product Development.

Experience developing brands and digital products from initial ideas, to MVP identification and implementation.

Creative Direction.

Experience managing and directing graphic designers, Illustrators, photographers, videographers, animators, brand strategist, copy-writers, user experience designers, user interface designers, web developers, interior fit-out and build vendors.

Ideation To Implementation Expertise.

Experienced in the entire process, from resource budgeting, to ideation, strategic planning, design, production through to implementation. Well versed in the entirety of creative project operations.

Print + Digital Expertise.

Multi-disciplinary expertise in print and digital design and corresponding team direction.

Versatile Communicator.

Experienced, confident verbal and visual communicator able to also direct teams to articulate ideas clearly. Able to communicate industry specific ideas clearly and effectively with non-experts.

Software Proficiency.

Not limited to Adobe Photoshop / Adobe Illustrator / Adobe InDesign / Adobe Experience Design XD / Adobe Dimensions / Adobe Lightroom / Adobe Character Animation / Microsoft Office / Canva

Language Proficiency.

Fluent English Speaker.
Proficient Arabic use in visual communication design and creative direction.

Involvements & Recognitions

Awwards.com. 2017.

Website of The Day. Premidnight.net
Featured short-listed Nominee.

Google. 2016 and 2017.

- Google digital applications master class.
- Google material design user interface design master class.

Attendee and certificate holder.

Behance.net. 2016.

Curated gallery feature.
Graphic Design.

Arabic Calligraphy. 2015.

Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy in Design workshop By Wissam Shawkat.
Attendee and certificate holder.

The Game Initiative. 2013.

PlayStation American University in Dubai Student Gaming Initiative.
Work created: "PC Game: Trail of Wisdom".

Sikka Art Exhibition. 2013.

Sikka Art Exhibition, Al Bastakiya.
Displayed design work; "Kalendae.

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Client History Summary

Institutional & Government.

The UAE Ministry of Education / The UAE Government / United Nations Data Forum / Abu Dhabi Media Council / Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) / MiSK Foundation / Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA) / NCA – Global Cybersecurity Forum

Hospitality.

Marriott Renaissance Hotels / Waldorf Astoria.

Retail & Corporates.

Corys / Hepworth / Tabaterra / Midas Safety / Ma'aden / NCB – Samba (SNB Merger) / Sipchem - Sahara merger / SRMG

Food & Beverage.

The Espresso Lab / BY HB / Savarin / Blacksmith Coffee Company Abu Dhabi / DRVN Coffee / Crisol.

Online Platforms.

BreakBread.ae / Crescent Enterprises / Premidnight.net / Ethan & Co.

Investment & Finance.

Mubadala / Barclays / Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) / Simply Life / Arcapita / Dubai Investment / Saudi Exchange (Tadawul)

Sports & Entertainment.

UAE Formula 4 / Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) / YAS Island / X Dubai / Ittihad Football Club.

Transportation.

Dubai Airports / Hamad International Airport (HIA) / Transaero / AirArabia / Etihad Rail.

Property & Real Estate.

Emaar / Artar properties / Wasl Properties / Qatar Freezones Authority.

Healthcare.

BioNTech / Dallah Health / KSA Ministry of Health

Defense.

GAMI / World Defense Show

Sustainability, Philanthropy & ESG.

Saudi Green Initiative / King Salman Foundation