

Emma Van Buskirk

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SUMMARY

Production Studio Manager with 10 years of professional experience across studio production, creative direction, and brand content – including 6 years building and running a high-volume production studio from the ground up. Experienced working with premium lifestyle and kitchen brands, including Vitamix, Staub, and Zwilling, producing food-in-use product video shoots where the product is always the hero. Drawn to YETI for its commitment to innovation and focus on top-tier quality and functionality – values that translate directly into how I approach my work. [Click here for more.](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Studio Manager & Cinematographer – *October Creative, Austin, TX* – July 2020 to January 2026

- Ran a high-volume production studio executing up to 8 recipe videos per day, operating at this cadence up to 4 days per week
- Owned all pre-production for brand shoots end-to-end: led art direction; created shoot schedules, shot lists, client-facing presentation documents; coordinated staff and talent; managed all product sourcing and sample coordination with brands
- Produced large-scale branded video shoots day-of: managed crew, tracked shot list and schedule in real time, coordinated on-the-fly logistics
 - Led a shoot focused on a new product release for Zwilling: produced 6 videos in a single day - 5 recipe videos featuring the products, plus one full product overview - managing the full production from pre-production through wrap.
- Built and continuously managed the studio's core operational systems
 - Created prop inventory tracking, client presentation templates, and new-hire training workflows from scratch
 - Refined and maintained shoot scheduling infrastructure and shot list templates to better identify process gaps, support staff in real time, and drive workflow improvements to increase studio efficiency
- Managed client relationships from brief through delivery for premium lifestyle brands (Vitamix, Staub, Zwilling) and leading food content creators (Love & Lemons, Cookie + Kate, Minimalist Baker, etc.), translating brand identity into distinct visual content
- Contributed to project scoping and pricing discussions, ensuring alignment between client expectations and studio capacity
- Hired, trained, and mentored a team of 4 full-time and 2-4 part-time staff, building a collaborative, solutions-oriented studio culture

Freelance Creative & Marketing Contractor – *Kansas City, MO* – August 2019 to July 2020

- Directed and styled food-focused photoshoots for a local café, translating hospitality brand identity into cohesive visual storytelling for social and web platforms
- Owned end-to-end email marketing program for an independent retail client: producing all graphics, copywriting, and content in Mailchimp at a cadence of 1 to 2 campaigns per week
- Managed social media accounts across multiple clients in the food, retail, and lifestyle sectors; producing graphics and content tailored to each brand's voice and audience
- Conducted competitive landscape research and developed a master list of potential creative talent for a production company exploring expansion into a hybrid talent agency model

Interior Designer – *Hufft, Kansas City, MO* – August 2018 to August 2019

- Managed multiple retail and hospitality projects from concept through construction documentation
- Oversaw selection and procurement of furniture packages, balancing aesthetics, function, and budget

Interior Designer – *BRR Architecture, Overland Park, KS* – August 2016 to August 2018

- Spearheaded design strategy for a multi-location fast-casual restaurant chain, ensuring cohesive brand translation across all spaces
- Led client-facing design meetings, fostering collaborative dialogue and maintaining alignment through execution

SKILLS

Production: Photo & video production • Creative direction • Campaign development & execution • Prop sourcing & inventory management
Operations: Studio scheduling • Team hiring & training • Workflow systems • Project management • Budget oversight • Client communication
Software: Adobe Creative Cloud • Frame.io • Ziflow • Google Workspace • AI tools (personal exploration for workflow efficiency & ideation)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Interior Design – *Kansas State University, 2012 to 2016*