

Kathy Amen

Senior Book Production and Publication Design Specialist

4545 Wheaton Drive, F340

Fort Collins, Colorado

(970) 227-1081

kathyamendesign@gmail.com

www.kathyamen.com

Professional Summary

Book production and print specialist with over 30 years of experience in long-form editorial design, complex pagination systems, and commercial print environments. Experienced in guiding publications from manuscript development through final press delivery while maintaining rigorous prepress standards and production accuracy. Combines editorial sensitivity with hands-on printing expertise to deliver polished, press-ready books at scale.

Core Competencies

- Book design and long-form publication layout
- Large-scale historical and archival volumes
- Complex pagination systems
- Prepress and press-ready file preparation
- Print specifications and production oversight
- Vendor and printer coordination
- Press checks and quality control
- Typography and editorial flow
- Author publishing guidance

Technical Skills

Design and Layout

- QuarkXPress
- Adobe Creative Suite
- WordPress

Prepress and Production

- Offset and digital print software and workflows
- Color management and image resolution optimization
- Bleed, trim, spine, and binding coordination
- Print troubleshooting and quality control

Publishing and Distribution

- ISBN registration and barcode generation
- U.S. Copyright Office submission
- Library of Congress coordination (LCCN)
- Amazon KDP and distribution preparation

Workflow and Collaboration

- Remote production management
- Multi-project scheduling and deadline coordination
- Printer and vendor communication

Selected Book Projects

Valley of Castles, Cattle & Coal

1,088-page historical publication incorporating archival photography, custom cartography, and 5,000+ Chicago-style citations integrated throughout the text and comprehensive back matter. Built and maintained large-scale pagination architecture, managed image preparation and citation formatting systems, and directed print specifications and vendor coordination through final production, including casebound construction, endpapers, and foil-stamped cover design.

Adventures On (and Sometimes Off) the Hippie Trail, 1972–1975

264-page memoir, perfect bound with velvet matte finish, incorporating adapted travel maps, custom chapter iconography, and designed quote pages. Developed cohesive typographic and layout systems to support first-person narrative flow, managed image preparation and prepress coordination, and guided ISBN registration, Library of Congress submission, copyright filing, and Amazon distribution setup.

Professional Experience

Owner | Kathy Amen Design (1998–Present)

- Designed and produced books, magazines, and commercial print publications from concept to press
- Managed full production lifecycle including layout systems, typography, image preparation, and final press-ready file delivery
- Coordinated with regional and national printers to ensure technical accuracy and production efficiency
- Oversaw paper selection, binding specifications, and finishing details
- Provided authors with guidance on publishing preparation and distribution processes

Prepress Department Manager and Graphic Designer | B&B Printers (2007–2015)

- Managed prepress operations and file preparation workflow
- Ensured accurate press-ready files for offset and digital printing
- Oversaw production scheduling and troubleshooting
- Collaborated directly with press operators and clients to maintain quality control

Prepress Department Manager and Graphic Designer | Crested Butte Printing (1995–1998)

- Managed production workflow in high-volume commercial print environment
- Developed technical expertise in print mechanics and output standards

Production Manager | Publication Design, Inc. (1989–1995)

- Managed production and scheduling for weekly trade publications, including Cable World Magazine
- Produced high-deadline newsroom publications with overnight print schedules
- Coordinated national printing operations and conducted press checks
- Collaborated with senior editors from major Denver news organizations

Advertising Intern | KCNC News4 (1988–1989)

- Designed advertisements, bus boards, and billboards
- Coordinated on-air talent photo shoots
- Conducted press checks at national printing facilities

Administrative Assistant | Metropolitan Denver Arts Alliance / Denver Partnership (1986–1987)

- Provided administrative and organizational support within arts and civic partnership organizations while completing design studies at the Colorado Institute of Art.

Education

Colorado Institute of Art | Associate Degree in Graphic Design | 1988

Northeastern Junior College | Coursework in Commercial Art & Design | 1986