



PRINTOPOLY

GRAPHEX 2024

PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEX AWARDS

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE



HONORING EXCELLENCE IN
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Celebrating print, packaging, label
and sign professionals



GRAPHEX 2024



APRIL 25TH
FIORELLA'S
EVENT SPACE

OVERLAND
PARK, KS

2024 PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEx AWARDS



BEST OF SHOW

PIA MidAmerica hosts the annual Graphic Excellence Awards (GraphEx) competition to recognize our industry's outstanding technical achievements in innovation and print production. Hundreds of entries are submitted each year in an array of categories including brochures, magazines, calendars, campaigns, packaging and much more. Our independent judges select the extraordinary pieces in the competition to be recognized for Best of Show, Best of Division, Specialty, Best of Category awards and Awards of Recognition.

In addition, we want to recognize businesses and technical professionals who make up one of the industry's largest regional trade associations in the United States. These professionals and award-winning companies demonstrate outstanding technical capabilities in print and finishing techniques. Distinguished industry leaders are recognized with Executive of the Year, Print Champion and Professional of the Year honors. Join me in congratulating all the winners on their outstanding contributions that have made a positive impact on our region.



Best,

Teresa J. Campbell

Teresa Campbell, PIA MidAmerica President

2024 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR
CLIFF JOHNSON
ALPINE LITHO-GRAPHICS



PRINT CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
MIKE HUTTO
VARSITY YEARBOOK



Cliff Johnson is a third-generation printer who learned the craft of printing in his grandfather's basement, running an antique Heidelberg letterpress. After college, he worked in his father's commercial printing shop where he learned the business side of a small business. These formative years taught Cliff the craft and business skills needed in today's advanced technology printing world. In 1988, Cliff founded Alpine Litho-Graphics after breaking away from his father's business. As the owner, he is involved in every aspect of the business, from collaborating with customers on design to highlighting innovative technology, helping on press checks, or even lending a hand in the shipping department if there is a need. Cliff has a BS in Business Administration from the University of Missouri. He is competitive by nature, and enjoys racing his formula car in the SCAA National competition. Alpine's building showcases a vintage race car in the lobby as a tribute to his passion.

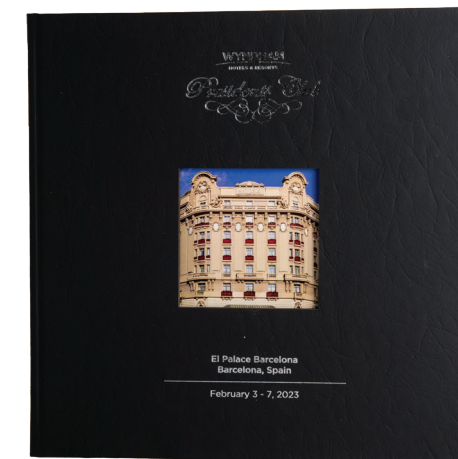
Mike Hutto is a highly regarded leader known for his unwavering faith, high integrity, and self-starting attitude. With a proven track record of success in various organizations, Mike excels in building teams, developing talent, and driving operational excellence. Throughout his career, Mike has demonstrated his ability to work with all levels of personnel and management, showcasing exceptional leadership in operations, sales, and supply chain management. He has exceeded goals and managed budgets effectively. As a project manager, Mike has overseen in-house and outsourced projects, demonstrating his expertise in supply chain management, vendor contract negotiation, and project implementation. Mike's commitment to sustainability is evident through his leadership in the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative projects. His proficiency in Lean Six Sigma and Operational Excellence training underscores his dedication to continuous improvement. Mike currently serves as Bindery and Commercial General Supervisor at Varsity Yearbook and oversees operations to ensure the highest standards of quality. His exceptional leadership continues to inspire those around him to strive for excellence in all endeavors.

PLATINUM*
**Print Trends,
Virtual Packaging**
Gardener of Peace Project

GOLD*
OptiGraphics
EMEK Flower Car 3D
with Lenticular

SILVER
J&J Printing
Paper Trails - Finding The Perfect Line

6.5 x 8.75 Perfect Bound Book printed on a Ryobi 750G LED UV 4 Color Press and a Canon ix3200 Digital Ink Jet. Domtar Cougar Papers used throughout: 130# Cougar Super, Smooth White cover, 80# Cougar Smooth White cover, 80# Cougar Smooth Natural cover, 130# Cougar Smooth Natural cover, 100#, Cougar Super Smooth White text, 80# Cougar White Smooth text.



BRONZE
Varsity Yearbook
Wyndham Presidents Club Book

This 11" x 11" hard cover book was printed on 100# gloss cover using an HP Indigo 15000 and a Kluge for foil application.

*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

PLATINUM

Next Page

2023 Best Practices Forum Invite Mailer

Campaign housed in a die cut folder, printed on a Komori press in 4-color process on 100# Solar White Classic Stripple cover.



PLATINUM*

MetroVCS

SFP Wedding Invitation Suite

GOLD*

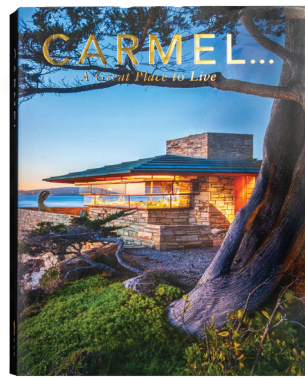
Registermarks

No Worries If Not

SILVER*

MetroVCS

David Chipperfield Architects



GOLD

Walsworth

Welcome to Carmel by Liberty Press

Coffee table book printed on a Heidelberg press with a Smyth-sewn hardboard spine and hot foil with black headband. The endsheet is printing using White Glatfelter Endleaf. The foldout, gatefold and interior were printed on Influence Gloss text.



BRONZE

AlphaGraphics Kansas City

Freedom Interiors Show Room

Interior design showroom graphics produced using HP 5500 Latex Printer, GBC Laminator, and a Colex Supercut Pro on 3M IJ40 Wall Film, 3M IJ 180 Vehicle Film, 1 mm PVC Sheet, and 12mm White PVC Sheet.



SILVER

Creative Printing and Packaging

Chinet Influencer Packaging

Digitally printed dual-sided outside wrap hand applied to a digital routed out board with magnet. Inside boxes are litho printed, diecut, and glued, then hand assembled. Produced using Acuity F, Zund cutter, KBA 106, Brausse SBL Diecutter, and a Brausse Eterna 1100 Gluer on .024 C1S, 50pt chip board, and GF 201. This project was executed in collaboration with Allied Litho.

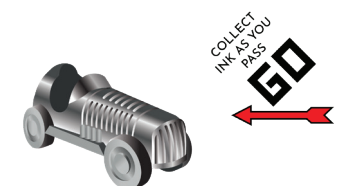


BRONZE

Walsworth

Original Living Magazine - December 2023

Perfect bound with scuff free matte lamination and hot foil embellishment. Digitally printed using 168# White 15 pt Tango Carolina for the cover. The text uses 60# white Influence Gloss text.



*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

DIVISION 2

PLATINUM

LARGEPRINTING.com

Mahomes Magic: KC Chiefs vs Indianapolis Colts

Holographic image printed on Agfa Jeti Touro on 6mm acrylic using UV ink. The holographic backer is hand laminated.



PLATINUM

Single Source

Stack-a-Cubes

Large, stackable Coroplast cubes printed on Acuity Prime 30 with Fuji UV-LED inks and cut out on Kongsberg flatbed.



GOLD

InStore Design Display

InStore Design Display Holiday Card

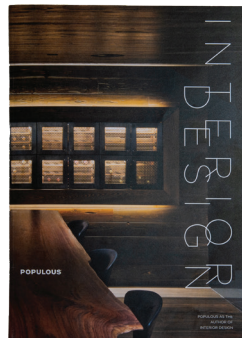
Holiday Card with three unique 3D ornaments fabricated with 12pt C25 Tango SBS. 4-color process used on Tauro press. Cutting is digital and then scored on a Duplo. Laser cutting prepared on a 155w CO2 laser.

SILVER

J&J Printing

Interior Design Catalog

A 72-pg self-cover design catalog printed with 4-color process on 70# Cougar white vellum using a Ryobi 750G LED UV Press.

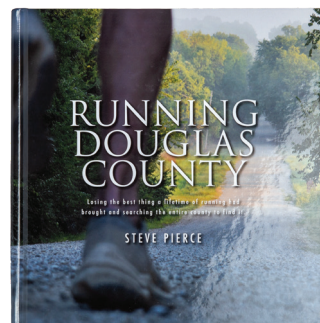


BRONZE

Boelte-Hall

Running Through Douglas County Photography Book

200pg + cover photography book printed on 70# Gloss text using Komori IS-29 press and Komori IS-29 ink.



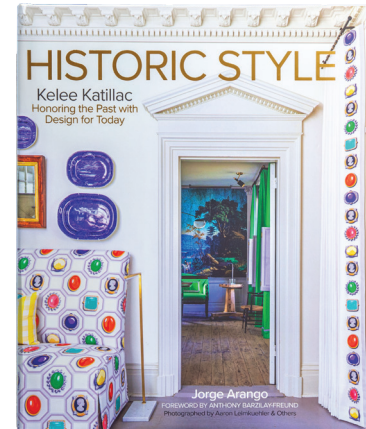
DIVISION 3

PLATINUM

Walsworth

Historic Style by Missouri Life Media

Smyth-sewn hardcover book printed on a Heidelberg press. Dust Jacket: Sterling Ultra Litho FSC with matte lamination and hot foil; Endsheets: White Accent Opaque Smooth text. Text: White FSC Endurance Silk text.



GOLD*

Brodnax 21C

Sebastian Construction Group 75th Anniversary

SILVER*

ColorDynamics

The Comisar Collection

BRONZE

Mainline Printing

Scorpio Gold and Inverse

Printed on a Fujifilm Acuity Prime 30 machine using Mainline-produced 12pt Gold and Rainbow Holographic stock and Fujifilm Uvijet Inks.



BEST OF DIGITAL

PLATINUM

Modern Litho

Seasons Symphony Ball Program & Envelope

The program was printed on 100# Royal Sundance Brilliant White Cover and 80# Royal Sundance Brilliant White Text using a Ricoh 9210 printer. It featured a bronze foil stamp, applied in post production. The envelope matched the paper with the inside pages of the program and was printed with the IJet Digital Inkjet Envelope Press.



GOLD

C K Print & Design

Barracuda Sales Booklet

Booklet printed and stitched on Konica Minolta Accurio Label 400 Press. Covers: Soft touch laminated one side then spot raised UV and spot metallic applied on MGI. Printed using Konica Minolta 14000 and MGI 3D Jet Varnish. Paper: 100# Gloss cover & 80# Gloss text.



SILVER

Stouse

Tito's Handmade Vodka Sign

Large, cut-out Tito's sign printed using an Inca 540 on corrugated plastic.



BRONZE

Boelete-Hall

KU Sig Ep: 100 Year Anniversary Book

16-page book with soft touch laminate and gold foil application on the cover. Printed on Komori IS-29 press with 4-color process throughout on 100# matte Silk cover and text.

*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

BEST OF FINISHING

PLATINUM

NextPage

NextPage 2023 Holiday card

3D card produced on a Komori press and Bobst. Die cut, score and hand assembled using 100# Neenah White cover. Shape-cut envelope on Accent Opaque Smooth text.



GOLD

Mpress

Evelyn Hofer, Eyes on the City

Brochure printed 4-color process + satin AQ on 100# Dull cover. Die-cut and hand-assembled.



SILVER

Alpine Litho-Graphics

Alpine Litho-Graphics 2023 Holiday Card

Greeting card produced with HP Indigo 7800 and MGI clear spot-raised UV and spot silver holograph foil with soft touch laminate on the front of the card. Die-cut using Heidelberg Letterpress. Envelope produced with Ryobi offset press with 3 PMS colors.

BRONZE

Boelte-Hall

Kauffman Graduation Celebration Card & Envelope

Invitation and envelope printed on a Komori IS-29 digital press and IJet press using 100# Cougar cover, Glama Natural Digital Clean Translucent and 60# Cougar Opaque Square envelope.



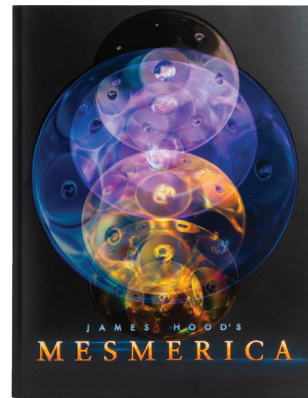
SPECIALTY AWARDS

BEST USE OF INK

Modern Litho

Mesmerica

48-pg perfect-bound book printed 4-color process + strike through AQ on a Heidelberg XL106 10-color, XL106 8 Color, and a Muller Martini Perfect Binder. 100# Endurance Gloss cover, 100# Endurance Silk text.



BEST OF INNOVATION PLATINUM*

Craft Signs and Specialty Printing

Frog Paddles and Pickleball Paddle

BEST OF INNOVATION GOLD

Trabon

2024 Insight 2 Design Product Catalog

64-pg 8.5" x 11" perfect bound design product catalog printed 4-color process on Fujifilm J Press.



BEST OF INNOVATION SILVER*

OptiGraphics

EMEK Cyber Man 3D Motion Lenticular

SPECIALTY AWARDS

BEST OF INNOVATION BRONZE

NextPage

Product Portfolio with Holographic Spread

36-pg 8.5" x 5.5" SS product portfolio book with holographic center spread laminate printed on an Osaka and saddle-stitched on Gloss cover 80#, 4/4 S1/S2 HUV.



BEST USE OF PAPER

Trabon

Rockhurst High School Vision Book

36-pg yearbook with cover printed on HP Indigo 7900, 4-color process with 1.5 mill soft-touch lamination and blind emboss on 100# Cougar Digital White Super Smooth cover. Text and flysheet produced 5/5, 4-color process + 871 metallic on Komori GL640 on 100# Cougar White Smooth Opaque text and 40# Glama Natural Translucent.



BEST OF POP

Mainline Printing

AE ICONIC award

Reverse-printed award produced on Fujifilm Acuity Prime 30 using UV Ijet inks, Kongsberg X-Edge on 14" clear acrylic.



*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

SPECIALTY AWARDS

BEST OF PREPRESS Varsity Yearbook

Williford Art Book

13" x 10" art book printed on Heidelberg XL 106. Paper is 100# Matte text with Sun Chemicals Legend Series Ink.



BEST OF SIGNAGE Trabon

The Capital Grille Lunch Plates Menu

24" x 36" on 3/16" WBB (White/Black/Black) Ultra Board produced using Fujifilm Acuity Prime 30 Large Format flatbed printer with UV Inkjet Primer + 4-color process + clear coating.



BEST OF SUBSTRATE Hallmark Cards

"We Bring Ideas to Life" STEM 2023 Poster

Poster printed using a Thompson Foil Press and Kodak NexPress on Tiara Shasta 65# with Kodak NexPress Digital Toner. Stock was foiled prior to printing.

STUDENTS

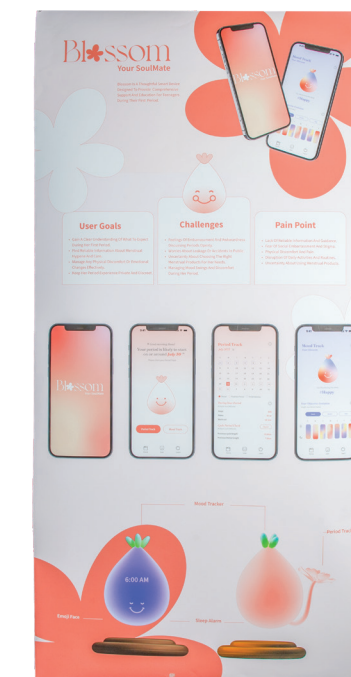
FIRST PLACE Pittsburg State University

Kayla Rosche Portfolio Self-Promotion



SECOND PLACE Kansas City Art Institute

BlossomTime App



THIRD PLACE* University of Houston

National Slurpee Day Card

BEST CLASS PROJECT* Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Gazeta de Caracas: 2023 LPCA Print

BEST OF FINISHING* University of Houston

Easter Bunny Holiday Card

*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

*awarded to a OK/TX entrant

2024 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
PRINT PROFESSIONAL**
Diana McKee
Harvest Graphics

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
SUPPLIER PROFESSIONAL**
Bob Buechele
Veritiv

OUTSTANDING TEAM
Jasmine Al-Hussain
Dennis Evans
Laura Haverkamp
Grace Haworth
Loren Kallenbach
Damon Lewis
Gene Petrie
Abbie Shanelec
John Wallace
Doug Wingfield
Hallmark Cards, Inc.

**ESTIMATOR
PROFESSIONAL**
Angie Alsop
Trabon

**EDUCATOR
PROFESSIONAL**
Chris Huitt
Pittsburg State University

**HUMAN RESOURCES
PROFESSIONAL**
William Smith
Walsworth

**PRODUCTION
PROFESSIONAL**
Shari Keeney
Maywood

**YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL**
Cassie Elliott
Walsworth

PREPARE FOR 2025

2025
PIA | MIDAMERICA
graphex
GRAPHIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

With this year's GraphEx coming to a close, start thinking of next year's event. Begin preparing your entries and even submit them early! Our 2025 GraphEx submissions are available year round. Submit at piamidam.org/entries.



Your growth and success are our top priorities



Unwavering Service

Dedicated to Our Members, Dedicated to Excellence.



Industry Advocacy

Together, we strengthen the industry through workforce development, education, and advocacy on laws and regulations.



Collaborative Strength & Savings

Our collective buying power and collaborative efforts drive savings and innovation for all members.



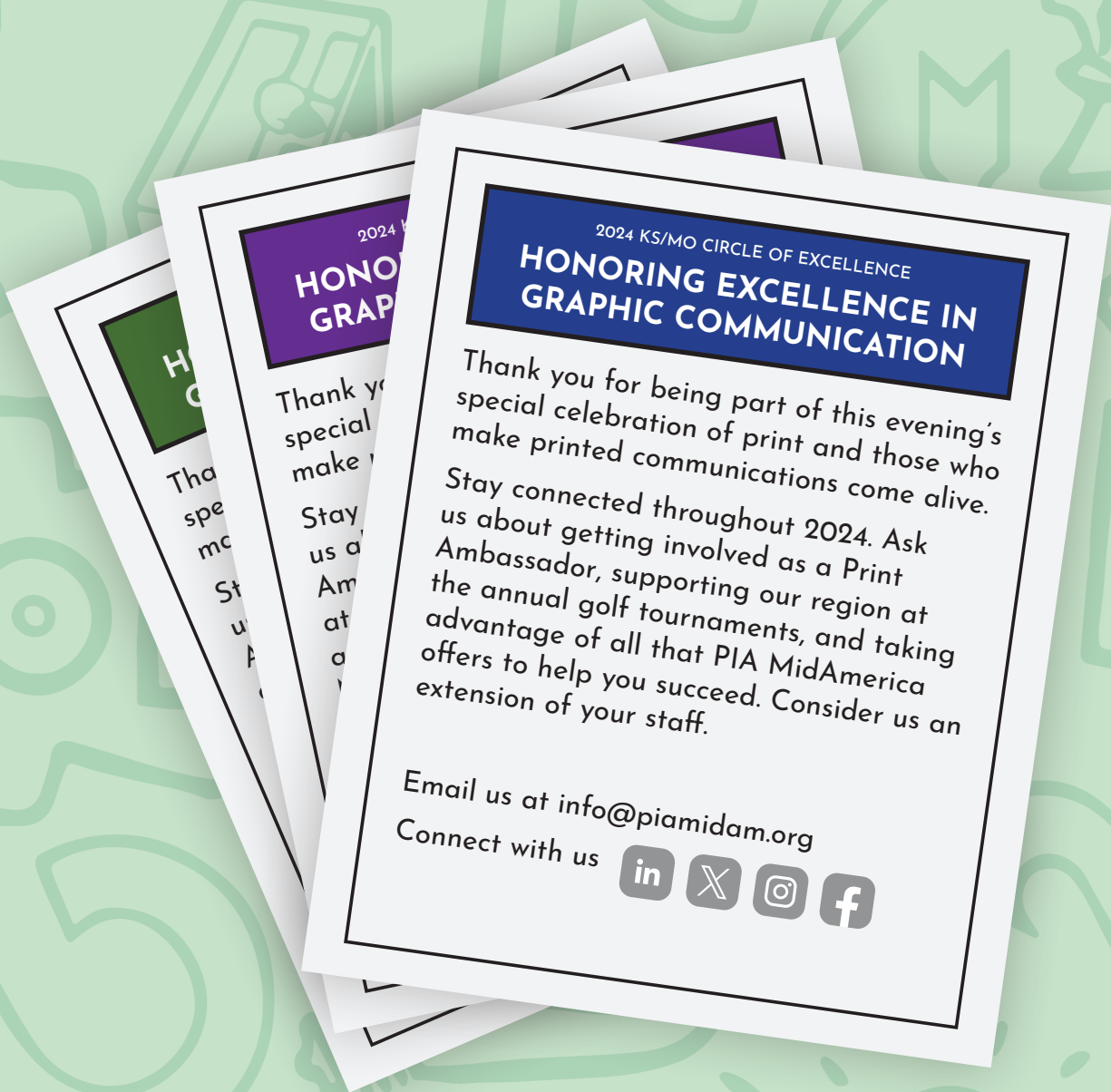
Leadership and Innovation

As the vanguards of the printing industry, we're committed to advancing our members' interests every single day.

Connect with us!

info@PIAMidAm.org





Production Notes

Paper: 100 lb. Hansol Explorer Gloss Cover

Press: Canon varioPRINT iX sheetfed inkjet press