



Tippett Studio is a unique, Academy Award winning, full service visual effects company that specializes in CG character animation for movies and television commercials. Founded in 1984 by Phil Tippett, the Studio is located in Berkeley, California.

We currently have an opening for a Sr. Art Director. This is a full-time position paired with a full benefits package including: medical/dental/vision coverage, flexible spending plans, and paid time off.

Please refer to the job description below for further details. Instructions on how to apply for this job are provided at the bottom of this posting.

SR. ART DIRECTOR

The Sr. Art Director is primarily responsible for helping to define and maintain Tippett's high look standards on any given production. This is a leadership role that partners closely with the VFX Supervisor to ensure that the show is moving along in the creative direction as approved by the director. This position assists with overseeing Paint Leads, Model Leads, TD Leads, and their crew.

Essential Functions:

The below list describes the essential functions of this role, but other duties may be assigned, as necessary.

- Partners with the Producer and VFX Supervisor to establish goals/expectations for the deliverables of a show, and oversees the process to ensure that those goals are met.
- Oversees and/or creates concept/design images for director approval.
- Generates key art and provides good reference.
- Clearly communicates to the rest of the crew the main concepts illustrated in the key art or reference, and oversees the work to ensure that it is not deviating from original concepts.
- Provides suggestions and recommendations regarding the hiring, advancement, work assignments, and performance quality of the artists in the Art Department.
- Acts as a bridge or point-person for look issues in order to provide a certain amount of consistency and reliability across the art department, as well as others, as needed.
- Partners with the VFX Supervisor and Producer to ensure that crew's needs are adequately represented while achieving the goals of the show.
- Helps determine the best solution to any given look problem and clearly articulates the proper course of action to all affected departments.
- Knows when the look has reached the standard of quality needed for an image and can determine when work is final or is in need of more work.
- Partners with the VFX Supervisor in overseeing the work being accomplished: acts as a second set of eyes for the supervisor.
- Works with Leads to assess and advocate for tools and processes that aid in look development.
- Provides notes in dailies per prior arrangements with VFX Supervisor.
- Conducts rounds to ensure that artists are aware of and understand the look notes as well as communicate timely feedback on their work.

- Monitors the crew morale, and keeps the producers and managers aware of problems with burnout/frustration.
- Helps facilitate art department-related dailies by keeping the shots moving along but allowing leads to provide input; arbitrates when conflicts arise; finalizes shots or provides clear direction if changes are needed.
- Creates model and paint job detail lists with VFX Supervisor, Producer and Leads.
- Assists managers with casting determinations on an as-needed basis to help ensure that talent is best matched to the work.
- Helps keep the crew focused on the big picture, and ensures that the show moves along when focus gets too narrow, or when artists are hung up on technique issues.
- Assists with hiring for positions in the Art Department.
- Provides time estimates for show bidding.
- Helps select and provide marketing materials.

Qualifications, knowledge, and skills:

- Minimum 4 years in VFX industry, with 2 of those years in a leadership capacity.
- Exceptional illustration, painting, and/or sculpting skills.
- Strong understanding of VFX production and show-specific goals.
- Exceptional leadership skills; must be able to guide/influence others at all levels within an organization.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong prioritization and multi-tasking skills.
- Strong knowledge of the VFX pipelines and work flows.
- Degree or formal training in fine art, illustration, or sculpture strongly preferred.
- Strong knowledge of Mari a plus!

To apply for this job, please submit your resume, cover letter, and reel (or link to your reel) to: jobs-srad@tippett.com.

Due to the high volume of interest in our postings, we are unable to respond to inquiries about application status or job openings.