Bill Marr is Creative Director for National Geographic magazine. His career reflects a dedication to photography and its presentation in newspapers, books and magazines. He was named College Photographer of the Year in 1976, but soon felt more at home with editing and page design. While pretending to attend journalism school at the University of Missouri, Marr worked at the Columbia (MO) Tribune where he was named Newspaper Picture editor of the Year in 1979 and the newspaper was twice recognized for Best Use of Photography. The newspaper was also honored by SND with a gold medal for design. Marr was art director at the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine in the early 80s where he was recognized twice by POYi as Newspaper Magazine Picture Editor of the Year. He began a commercial design and photography studio with photographer Nick Kelsh that specialized in the use of editorial and creative photography in corporate applications. Later, after six years on the staff of National Geographic as a layout editor, he began another freelance company in 1998 with his wife, photographer Sarah Leen, designing and packaging more than 40 illustrated books. Marr rejoined the National Geographic staff in 2005 as executive editor. National Geographic has been recognized with the National Magazine Award for General Excellence—its highest honor—three times in the past four years.