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Dear Panel,

RE: John Brookes

We have had great pleasure in working with John over a number of years through our IGNITE program. A program that was curated suite of devised programs which challenged, excited, and engaged artists who identify as disabled, d/Deaf, HOH (hard of hearing), chronically ill, neurodiverse, or having mental health experience.

John is passionate about his practice, bringing people together and proactive advocate for the Disabled community. He continuously seeks to bring people together through the arts, encouraging and supporting other artists to grow and celebrate their practice.

In 2022, John took his practice further through his collaboration with locally based photographer Hilary Wardhaugh, in his exhibition *Pictures of You*. John actively seeks opportunities to challenge himself through ambitious collaboration with others. His recent project focused on the Tarot once again extended his creative ambitions further whilst encouraging audiences to view the world through an alternative lens. He has taken a similar approach to *DISCRIMINATE*, his upcoming exhibition at our gallery which address modern media and public bias around people with disability through satirical use of historical propaganda poster designs.

John is a prolific producer, truly committed and a creatively ambitious artist in the Canberra region, further enriched by his commitment to the disability community and using his practice to raise public awareness on topical public concerns.

I can only encourage and support investment into supporting John's creative ambitions.

All the best

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monika'.

Monika McInerney
Artistic Director & Co-CEO
Belconnen Arts Centre