



To whom it may concern,

I have known John for a number of years and collaborated with him on a project called the “The Wizard, the Professor and the Jellyfish”; which John later developed into the “Pictures of You” project and exhibition. John has a long standing-passion for the rights of disenfranchised groups -including those with disability; both before and after he became disabled himself as a result of terminal organ disease. He has combined this with his love of the arts, and over 25 years of communications in the disability sector (he has a Masters Degree in Communication with Distinction), I have followed his activities and development with interest in anumber of local exhibitions, including Belco Arts.

Whilst his medium of preference is photography (he was MENSA UK Photographer of the Year in 2007). John is keen to push the envelope in use of new (to him) media

John also makes extensive use of digital and social media in website design and social media campaigns.

John’s commitment to his belief of empowerment through arts is demonstrated by the fact that all of his efforts are carried out as a volunteer since his diagnosis. Having worked for Volunteering England in the UK he has experience of volunteerism and engaging with other voluntary resources – I note over the years he has been recognized with an “Excellence in Volunteer Support 2019” and “Lifetime Achievement Award 2021”, both through your Chief Minister’s Inclusion Awards and the “Volunteering Service Award 2020” from Volunteering ACT.

He is also experienced in putting on both large and small scaleevents which assists in visualizing arts projects in a gallery setting – from the Tate Modern Turbine Hall and Royal Festival Hall in the UK; to Smiths Alternative bookshop, Gundaroo homestead and Belconnen Community Gallery in Australia.

To sum up, I am delighted to endorse John as an innovative artist willing to look beyond established arts and media norms in his depictions of disenfranchised subjects.

On a personal level I have found John to be keen to explore new uses of a range of art medium, committed to his beliefs and easy to get along with, always happy to take feedback on board without taking offence. Since our joint collaboration I now count John as a friend.

I also believe the proposal in this application has an exciting potential to not only explore an often overlooked medium but also make it relevant to society

Yours sincerely,

Professor John Hyatt