



To whom it may concern,

I have known John for a number of years and collaborated with him on a project 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. 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 a number 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 such as photomontage and early 20th century propaganda posters by the likes of John Heartfield. In updating this medium to the current age and context, John is keen to explore means of subverting mainstream media to champion the persecuted and discriminated — whilst also challenging depictions of people with disabilities in contemporary media and art depiction. 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. 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 was finalist in the "Arts Achievement Award 2021", both through the 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 scale events 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, Gininderra homestead and Belconnen Community Gallery in Australia.

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 John's participation in this opportunity has an exciting potential to not only enhance his own development, but that of those around him.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hyatt".

Professor John Hyatt. Email: j.hyatt@ljmu.ac.uk



Liverpool School of Art & Design
John Lennon Art and Design Building, 2 Drickinfield Street, Liverpool, L3 SRD
Tel: 0151 904 1280. Email: lsaoffice@ljn1ri.ac.uk