

Ben Rak

Curriculum Vitae

Born: 1978, California, USA
Migrated to Australia in 2001

Education

2011 – 2013 MFA, College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney
2008 – 2009 Printmaking Honours (1st class), College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney
2006 – 2008 BFA printmaking, College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney

Professional Experience

Co-founder and co-director, Throwdown Press, a not-for-profit research group that offers printmaking residencies to emerging artists. The aim is to examine methodological approaches of non-printmakers to the medium **(2012-present)**

- Select and coordinate artists invited to participate in the residency
- Work with invited artists to develop their artworks, and print the artists' works
- Set up and coordinate social media, including the press's website, blog, and Facebook presence; develop content (commissioned articles, artist profiles, and critical reviews)

Sessional lecturer, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney (2012-present)

- Teach etching class in Printmedia department; class consists of lectures and tutorials
- Develop course outline and assessment projects
- Assess outcomes of projects and mark the students

Sessional lecturer, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales (2010-present)

- Teach etching and screen printing to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the printmaking department; classes consist of lectures and tutorials
- Conduct tutorials in relief printing, monotype, collograph, and dry-point etching techniques
- Assess and mark the outcomes of the student's projects
- Develop lectures, course outlines and assessment projects

Printmaking instructor, Sydney Boys High School (2012)

- Develop class syllabus, including assessment tasks devised to reach specified outcomes
- Give lectures and tutorials to enable students to achieve required results

Instructor, Art Est. Art School and Gallery (2009-present)

Teach printmaking classes at a community art school; the classes cover techniques such as relief printing, etching, drypoint, monotype, collograph, and screen printing

Instructor, Waverley Woollahra Art School (2009-present)

Teach printmaking classes at a community art school; the classes cover techniques such as relief printing, etching, drypoint, monotype, collograph, and screen printing

Editioning printmaker, Cicada Press, A UNSW research group which aims to foster research projects that facilitate a diverse contemporary dialogue and promote the broad methodological potential of printmaking practice. **(2006-present)**

- Work under the master printer to coordinate printing and develop and print artworks by invited artists such as Elisabeth Cummings, Euan Macleod, Reg Mombassa, Fiona Hall, Noel McKenna, and Ann Thomson
- Work with indigenous artists, both urban and rural, including Papunya Tjupi Art Centre, Euraba Artists and Papermakers, Vernon Ah Kee, Gordon Hookey, Fiona Foley, and Reko Rennie
- Assist in the management of the custom printing class at UNSW COFA
- Set up and coordinate social media, including the press's website, blog, and Facebook presence; develop content (commissioned articles, artist profiles, and critical reviews)

Editioning printmaker, Whaling Road Studio (2006-present)**Freelance photographer documenting artworks and exhibitions (2005-present)****Solo Exhibitions**

- 2013 Performance Anxiety – Kudos Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 Socially Structured Movement - Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Consumed – Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2013 Familiar/Unfamiliar – Toowoomba Gallery, QLD
- 2013 Print Exchange 2013 – Robert Blackburn Printshop, New York USA
- 2013 Print Exchange 2013 – Graphic Arts Workshop, San Francisco, USA
- 2013 Familiar/Unfamiliar – Swan Hill Gallery, Swan Hill, VIC
- 2013 Corporeal – Geelong Gallery, Geelong VIC
- 2012 330 Exhibition – Gallery Smith, Melbourne VIC

- 2012 'Beginning with Printmaking – Integrative practice and crossing borders, '11th Nationwide Academies of Fine Arts Printmaking Biennial', Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China
- 2012 Billboard Art Project – Atlanta, Georgia USA
- 2012 Familiar/Unfamiliar – S.P.A.C.E Gallery, Launceston TAS
- 2012 Familiar/Unfamiliar – Tweed River Art Gallery, Murwillumbah NSW
- 2012 (Un)Seen Sculptures – Sydney NSW
- 2012 Mind & Reality – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Messages From The South - Art Museum of National Taiwan University of Arts, Taiwan
- 2011 Mind & Reality – Roxaboxen Gallery, Chicago USA
- 2011 Familiar/Unfamiliar – C3 contemporary art space, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 PCA Print Commission - Megalo, ACT
- 2011 Pacific Rim Meets Istanbul - FASS Gallery, Istanbul Turkey. In conjunction with the Istanbul Biennale
- 2011 International Art On Paper Exhibition – Chiang Mai University Art Centre, Chiang Mai , Thailand
- 2010 Pac Rim Print Exhibition – SOFA gallery, Christchurch NZ
- 2010 Addiction – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2009 Hip Pop – United Galleries @ Saatchi&Saatchi, Sydney NSW
- 2009 30x40 – United Galleries, Sydney NSW
- 2009 Addiction – Alfred School of Art, New York
- 2009 Halfway House – COFAspace Sydney
- 2009 Footprints – Sydney MCA / Blank Space, Sydney
- 2008 Hip Pop - United Galleries, Sydney
- 2008 Itchy Feet - Kudos Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 1200K Fowlers Gap- COFA space, Sydney
- 2008 Dislocation – Kudos Gallery Sydney
- 2008 Urban – Gallery Red, Sydney
- 2008 Untitled – At The Vanishing Point Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 Dirty Hands– Breathing Colours Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 Artbeat – Melton
- 2007 Dislocation - Kudos Gallery Sydney
- 2007 Living Sydney - Crossbay Gallery, Sydney

Selected Curated Projects

- 2013 Mirror,Mirror – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2012 Mind & Reality – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Mind & Reality – Roxaboxen Gallery, Chicago USA
- 2010 Addiction – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2009 Addiction – Alfred School of Art, New York

Prizes, Grants, Awards and Residencies

2013 **Parramatta – Pakistan – Cicada Press residency project**
2012 **UNSW Research Travel Grant**
2012 **Highly Commended** Blacktown Art Prize - Sculpture
2010 **Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship**
2009 **Winner National Tertiary Art Prize** – people's choice award
2008 **Winner Blacktown Art Prize** – Works on Paper
2008 **Winner Cofa Annual 2008** - Art Scene award
2008 **Highly Commended** Expose Your World
2007 **Winner Newtown NCA art prize** – Photography

Finalist in:

2013 Black Swan Portrait Prize
2013 Hazelhurst Art on Paper Prize
2013 Burnie Print Prize
2010 Fremantle Print Prize
2010 NSW Parliament Plein Aire Photographic Award
2009 Fisher's Ghost Art Prize
2009 Blacktown Art Prize
2009 Waverley Art Prize
2008 Burnie Print Prize
2008 Duke Gold Coast Art Prize
2008 Fisher's Ghost Art Prize
2008 MacarthurCook Art Award
2008 'New Scientist' Scientific Photography Award
2008 Waverley Art Prize
2007 Waverley Art Prize
2007 Willoughby Art Prize
2007 Sydney Morning Herald 'Shoot the Chef'
2007 Box Hill Biennial National Art Competition

Collaboration:

2013 The Print Exchange 2013, The Sketchbook Project
2011-2012 Digi-corpse projects
2007-2013 with Abdullah M.I. Syed

Commissions:

2012 Molle Street Billboard Project, Tasmania
2011 Print Council Of Australia Print Commission
2009 Arts Law Centre Of Australia, NSW

Bibliography :

- Greenhalgh,D.**, 2013. Mirror,Mirror The First Throwdown Press Residency. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 48 Number 2 2013, pg 39
- Yishuzs Blog** 2013, <http://yishuzs.com/2013/07/artist-ben-rak/>
- Doley,K.**, 2013. Throwdown Press. *Cofatopia Magazine*, April 2013, pg 15
- Rak, B.**, 2013. Mirror,Mirror. *Exhibition Catalogue*, March 2013
- Butler, A.**, 2013. COFA printmaking extensions in China. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 48 Number 1 2013, pg 13
- Rak, B.**, 2013. Pressing Prints/Pressing Palms. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 48 Number 1 2013, pg 12
- Webb, P.** 2013 Printmakers putting bodies on the line, *The Age*, March 8, 2013
- Walton, I.** 2013 Melbournin', *Trouble Magazine*, Issue 99, March 2013
- Rak, B.** 2012 Blending Cultures, *Mid-America Print Council Journal* Volume 20, Numbers 3&4, 2012
- Kempson, M.** 2012 Altruism, Community and the Importance of Mentoring *College Voice*, Volume 10, #2 2012
<http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/entertainment/publications/college-voice/volume-10-issue-2/altruism,-community-and-the-importance-of-mentoring---an-interview-with-michael-kempson->
- Forster, S.** 2011 PCA Commissioned Prints *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 47, #2 2012, pg 33
- Forster, S.**, Impact7 Month Of Print Program *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 47, #2 2012, pg 32
- Forster, S.**, Australia In Print *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 47, #1 2012, pg 38
- Frost, A.**, Metro Art Section. *Sydney Morning Herald* Dec 9th, 2011.
- Kelly, D.**, Keeping you posted... *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 46, #4 2011, pg 1
- Imprint Magazine*, Volume 46 Number 3 2011, pg 31 and 35
- Creighton, A.**, 2011. Ben Rak : Finding Authenticity. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 46 Number 1 2011, pg 13
- Rak, B.**, 2010. Addiction. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 45 Number 4 2010, pg 6
- Johnston, M.**, The Art of Selling New Ideas. *Sydney Morning Herald* Feb 27th, 2010.
- Creighton, A.**, 2010. We are all a bit inauthentic : Interview with Ben Rak. *Art Month Sydney 2010 blog*.
- Domestic Blend blog.**, 2010. FACPA2010 – Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award 2010 Opening Night.
- Rak, B.** *Identity Off The Rack*. COFA UNSW 2009. Sydney. *The Final Word Volume 1*, pg. 16-17. ISBN:[978-0-9805218-3-2]. A modified version of this article was also published in 'The College Voice' online magazine
<http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/media/documents/cvoice/vol7issue2/Identity.pdf>
- Rak, B.** *Wear Me*. Vokuhilla 2009, Sydney. ISBN:[978-0-646-52194-7]
- Rak, B.** *Brands, Clothing and the Self*. COFA UNSW 2009. Sydney *Half Way House Volume 2*, pg. 20-21. ISBN:[978-0-9805218-2-5]
- Happenstance blog.**, 2009. Profile : Ben Rak // Printmaking
- Kollector blog.**, 2009. Two from 30×40: Erin

Flannery and Ben Rak

Lowe, C., 2009. 2008 New Scientist Eureka Prize For Science Photography.
Explore Magazine, Autumn 2009, pg 22-23

Huynh, H., 2007. Papunya Tjupi and COFA UNSW workshop. *Imprint Magazine*, Volume 42 Number 4 2007, pg 33

Collections :

Alfred University School of Art, New York USA

Artbank, Australia

Arts Law Centre Of Australia, NSW Australia

Brooklyn Art Library, New York USA

Camberwell Grammar, VIC Australia

Canson Australia

City of Kingston, VIC Australia

City of Maroondah, VIC Australia

Geelong Gallery, VIC Australia

Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD Australia

Grafton Regional Art Gallery, Grafton NSW Australia

The Joan Flasch Artist Books Library, SAIC, Chicago USA

New Scientist Magazine, NSW Australia

Penleigh & Essendon School, VIC Australia

Print Council of Australia Archive, VIC Australia

University of Canterbury, SOFA, New Zealand

UNSW College of Fine Art, NSW Australia

Warnambool Art Gallery, VIC Australia