

## **Ben Rak**

Born: 1978, California, USA

Migrated to Australia in 2001

### **Education**

2011 – MFA, College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney

2008 – 2009 Printmaking Honours (1<sup>st</sup> class), College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney

2006 – 2008 BFA printmaking, College of Fine Arts, UNSW Sydney

### **Professional Experience**

2012 Founder and co-director Throwdown Press

2010 – Present Lecturer printmaking dept. at UNSW COFA

Relief printing, screen printing, etching, dry-point, monotype and collograph

2009 – Present Teaching printmaking at Art Est. Art School

2009 – Present Teaching printmaking at Waverley Woollahra. Art School

Aug 2008 - Nov 2008 Technical officer for printmaking dept at UNSW COFA

2006 – Present Editioning printmaker with Cicada Press

2006 – Present Editioning printmaker with Whaling Road Press

2005 – Present Freelance photographic documentation of artworks and exhibitions

### **Solo Exhibitions**

2011 Socially Structured Movement - Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney

2010 Consumed – Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2012 Familiar/Unfamiliar – Tweed River Art Gallery, Murwillumbah

2012 (Un)Seen Sculptures - Sydney

2012 Mind & Reality – CofaSpace Gallery, Sydney (Curator)

2011 Familiar/Unfamiliar – S.P.A.C.E Gallery, Launceston

2011 Messages From The South - Art Museum of National Taiwan University of Arts, Taiwan

2011 Mind & Reality – Roxaboxen Gallery, Chicago USA (Curator)

2011 Familiar/Unfamiliar – C3 contemporary art space, Melbourne (touring)

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 (Curator)

2009 Hip Pop – United Galleries @ Saatchi&Saatchi, Sydney

2009 30x40 – United Galleries, Sydney

2009 Addiction – Alfred School of Art, New York (Curator)

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

### **Prizes and Awards**

- 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
- 2007 **Winner Newtown NCA art prize** - Photography
- 2008 **Highly Commended** Expose Your World

- 2010 Fremantle Print Prize – Fremantle Art Centre, Perth
- 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:**

2007-2011 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 :**

- 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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

Camberwell Grammer, VIC Australia

Canson Australia

City of Kingston, VIC Australia

City of Maroondah, 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

UNSW College of Fine Art, NSW Australia

Warnambool Art Gallery, VIC Australia