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To the grant review panel,

I'm writing in support of Ben Rak's grant application for adapting Throwdown Press into a book publisher. If funded, his press will enable artists to extend their practices to a wider range of audiences interested in artist books and bespoke publications and will be a more accessible way for audiences to collect works by artists published through Throwdown Press.

I have been directly involved with the activities of Throwdown Press and the impact of our collaboration has resulted in tangible positive impacts for my career to date. In 2016, Ben approached me to make a suite of screen print editions. As a painter I would not have been capable of making such quality handmade prints without Ben's expertise in the field. The resulting works were integral to expanding my painting practice further and were among the most collected works I have made to date.

The response to our collaboration is a testament to Ben Rak's capacity to deliver in the print space. The prints we made were exhibited at Galerie Pompom (Sydney), M16 Artspace (Canberra) and Wagga Wagga Art Gallery (NSW). They have been included in public and private collections, including Charles Sturt University's Art Collection, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery collection and Bayly Projects. Working with Ben also increased my network and enabled me to undertake residencies at the Victorian College of the Arts Print studios to work with Master Printer Adrian Kellett, as well as working with Cicada Press at UNSW.

Ben is proposing to occupying a position within art book publishing that is not being made by other presses within Australia and would be a valuable addition to the arts ecology across disciplines within contemporary art practice. His press is focused on a lower price point than other arts book publishers, which means that it is able to attract and support artists in earlier stages of their career, and support audience development for artists with younger collectors, making the works more accessible to the general public.

By adapting to book publishing, Ben will be able to produce a new scale of collaboration for Throwdown Press making the publications easily sellable across the country and internationally and the funding he is requesting will ensure that he can produce, promote and proliferate new art to new audiences.

With this project in mind I am hopeful for the opportunity to work with Throwdown in this new capacity and fully support his request for funding to enable us to make great work again.

Kind regards,

Dr Tony Curran