## Ajay Jennings | Repeat After ME

Another attempt to render the invisible.

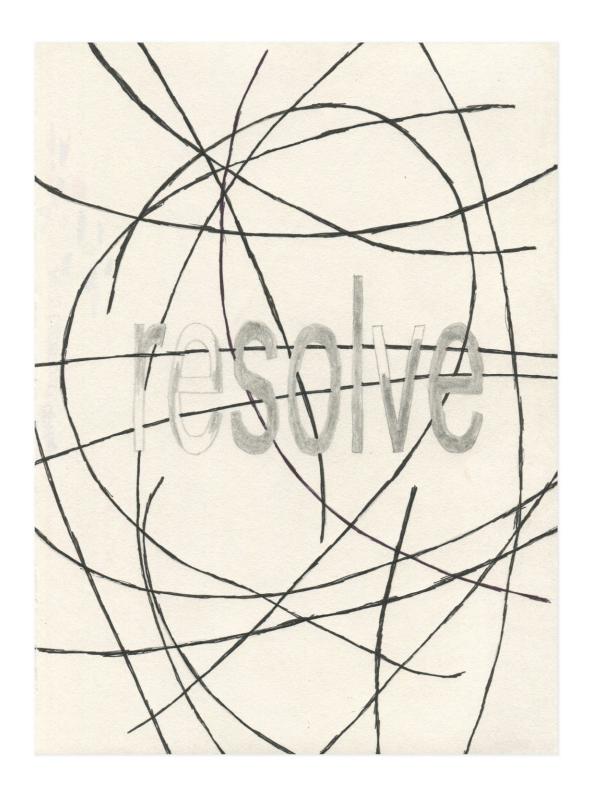
Repeat After ME is a collection of drawings that were composed in the latter half of 2023, a period in which Ajay Jennings was able to finally trace a pencil and marker across a page again following a cataclysmic ME/CFS (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) relapse. Stuck in a seemingly never-ending spiral of poor health that kept Jennings bedbound, Ajay would sketch to pass the time and to remove himself from his body and illness – if only for a few moments in a day.

In doing so, these drawings would become Ajay's mantras, monochromatic reminders to breath, meditate, to practice gratitude rather than to focus on what had been lost to an illness that had forcibly reshaped his life. Here, a series of flowers emerge in Jennings' work; a thank you to a partner he feared he might lose through his illness, an ode to the friends and family who waited for Jennings to regain his independence.

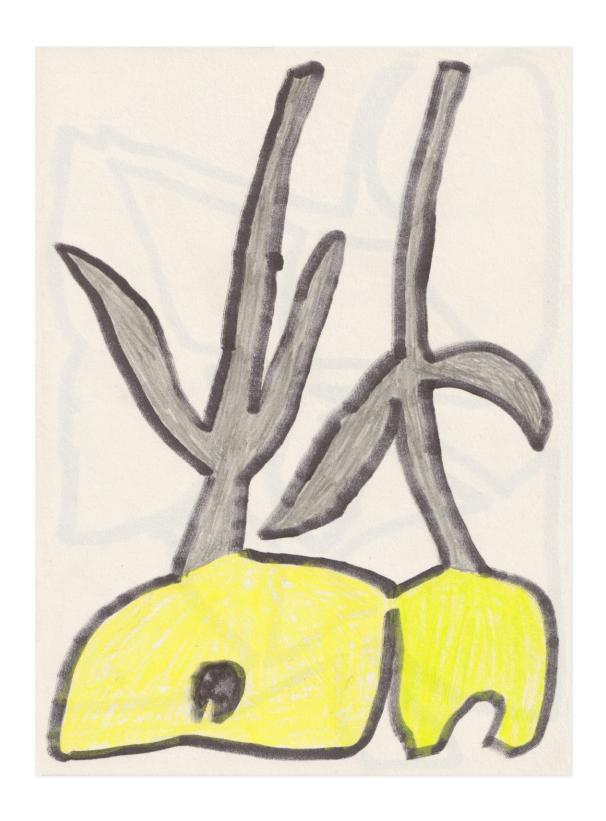
Repeat After ME is a series of mantras to repeat and hold onto during a ME/CFS flare-up, depictions of a life lost and a lover gained. Repeat After ME is to talk about 'me'; to share Jennings' story and to spread awareness of ME/CFS.

To accompany the original drawings, Ajay has produced a short-run single-colour artist book printed on Risograph, and all profits from the artist book and 50% of artwork sales will be donated to Emerge Australia (www.emerge.org.au) – a nationwide patient organisation providing services, evidence-based education, advocacy and research about ME/CFS.

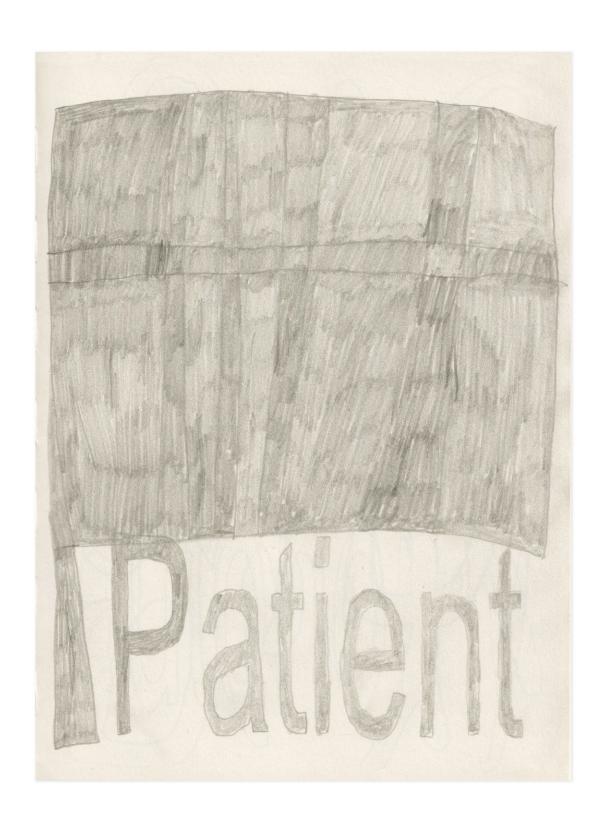
Exhibtion text by Michael Kruger



Resolve 01, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Your Flowers, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



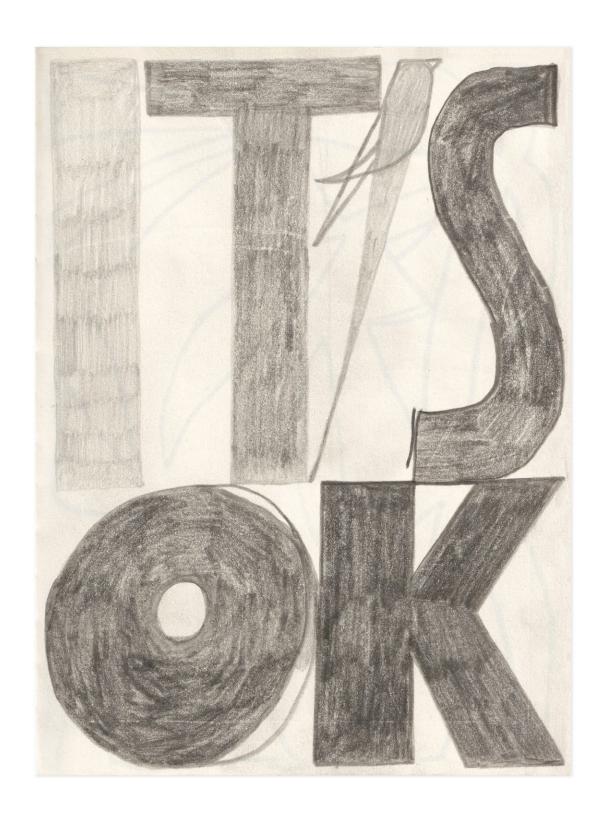
Patient, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Breathe, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



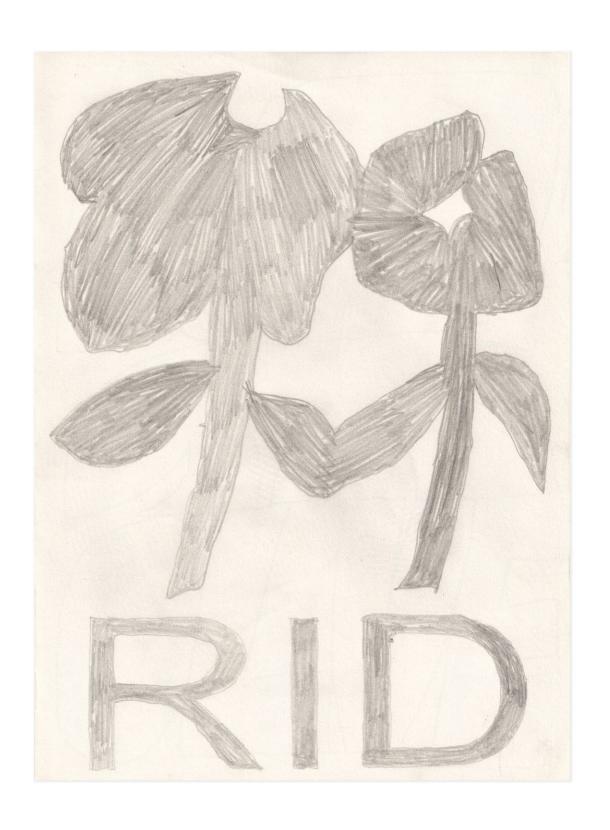
*Triplets*, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



IT'S OK, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



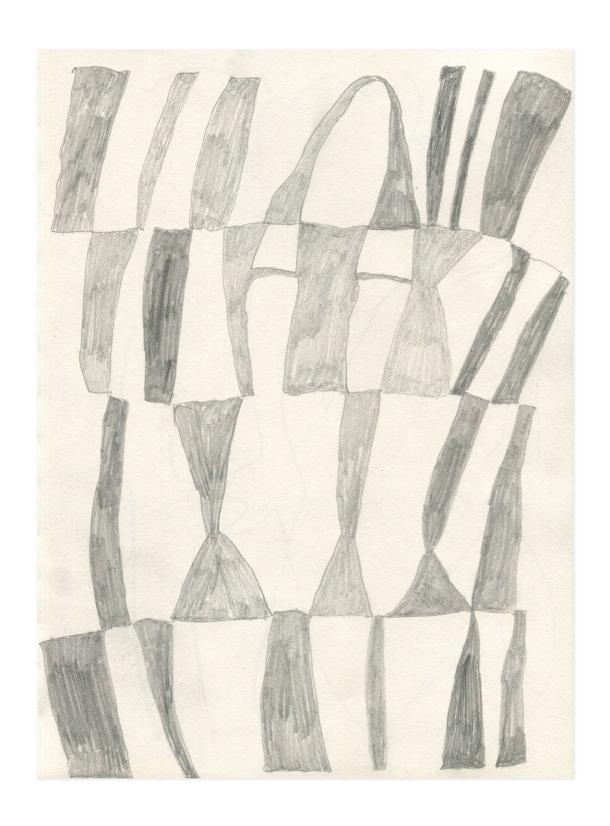
Breathe, Ready, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



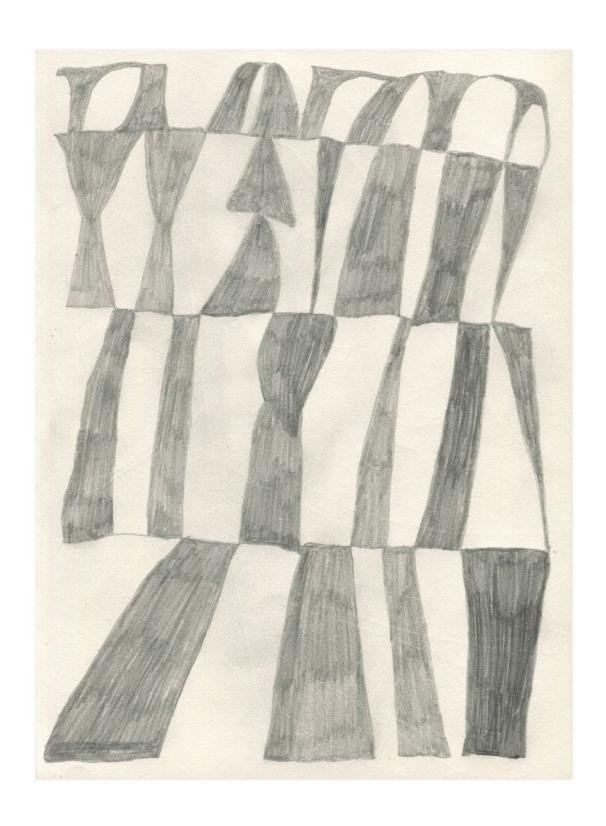
RID, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



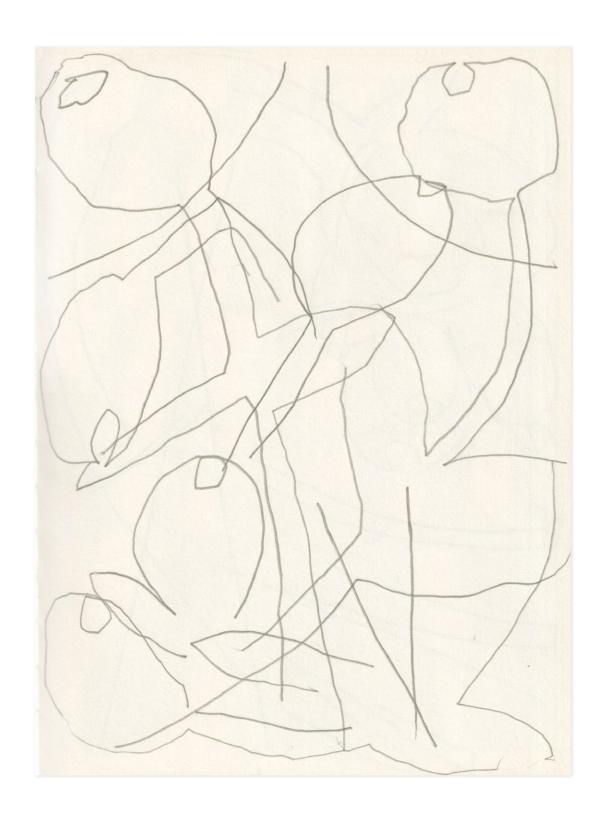
Untitled 01, 2024 Ink on paper 254 x 203mm



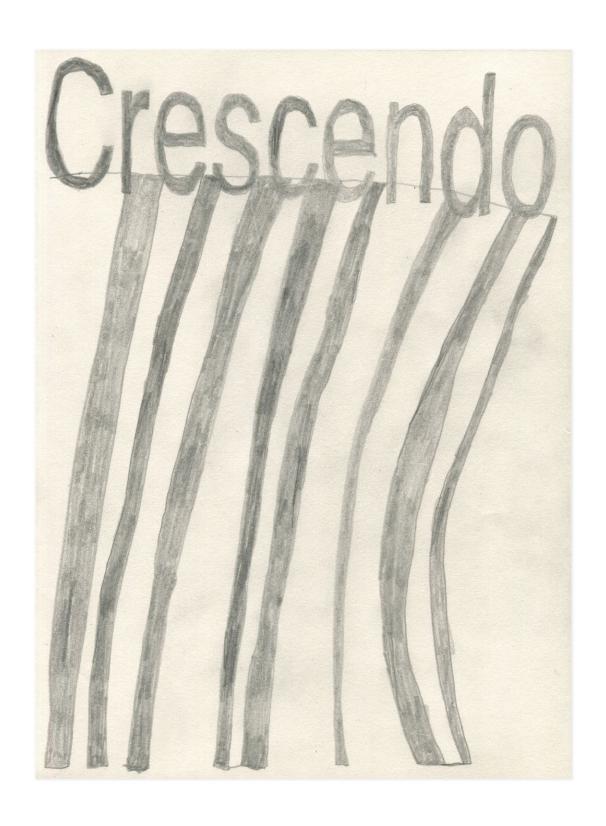
Untitled 02, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Untitled 03, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Broken Flowers, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Crescendo, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



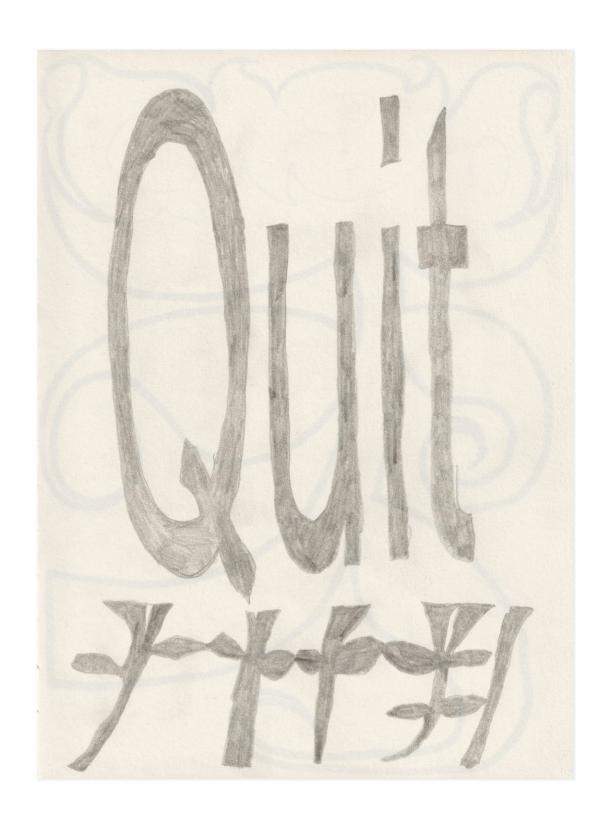
Bogong, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



New Flower, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Dancing Tulips, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



*Quit,* 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



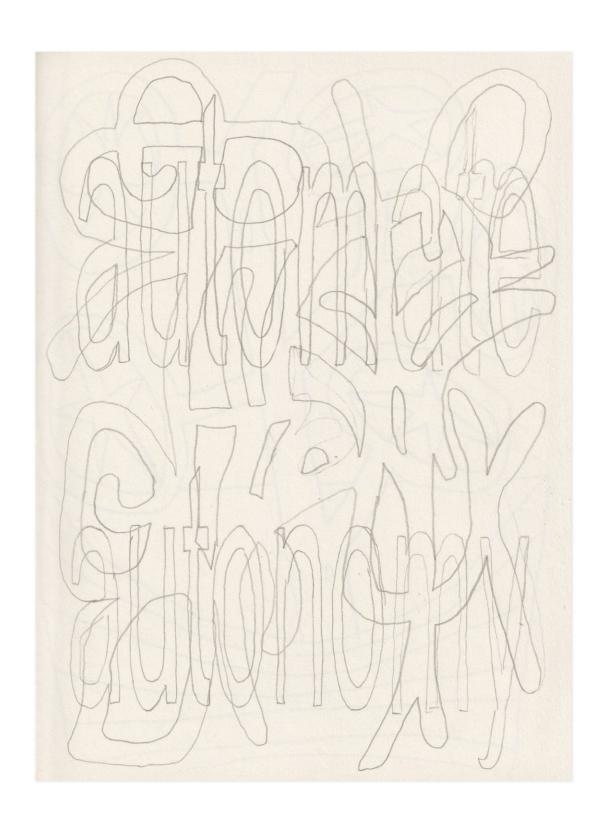
Resilient One, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



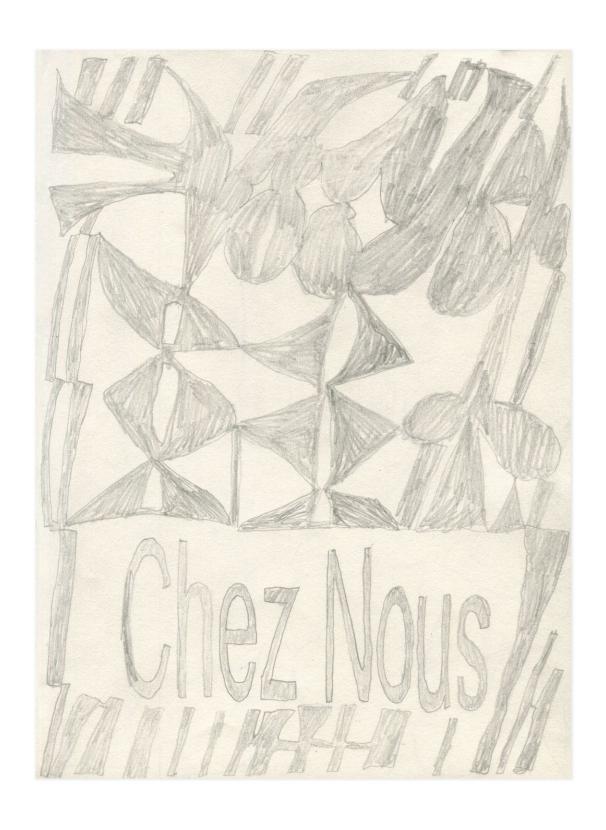
Resolve 02, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



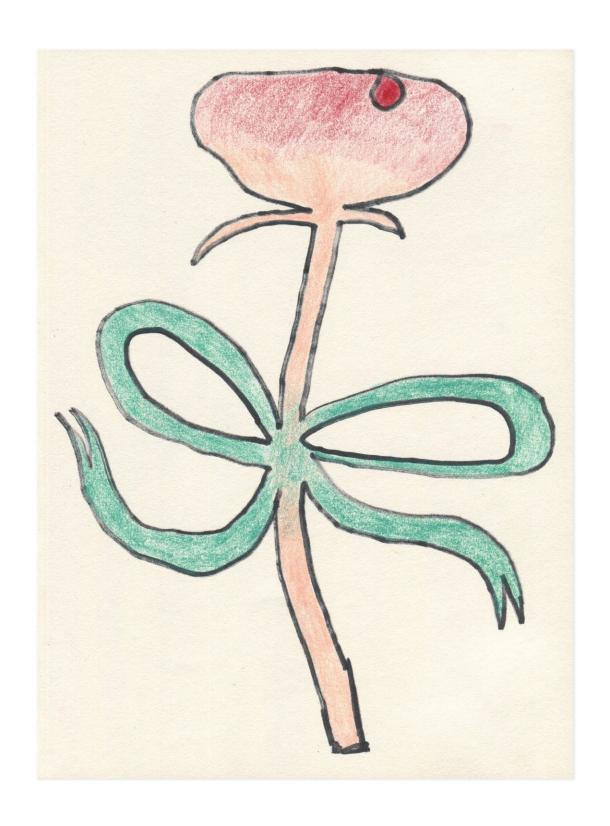
Funghi Flowers, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Automate Autonomy, 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



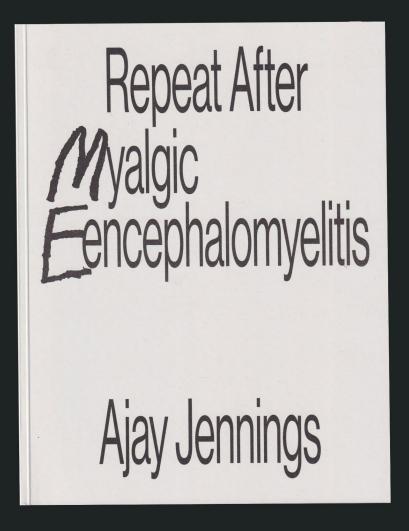
Chez Nous (Our House), 2024 Pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



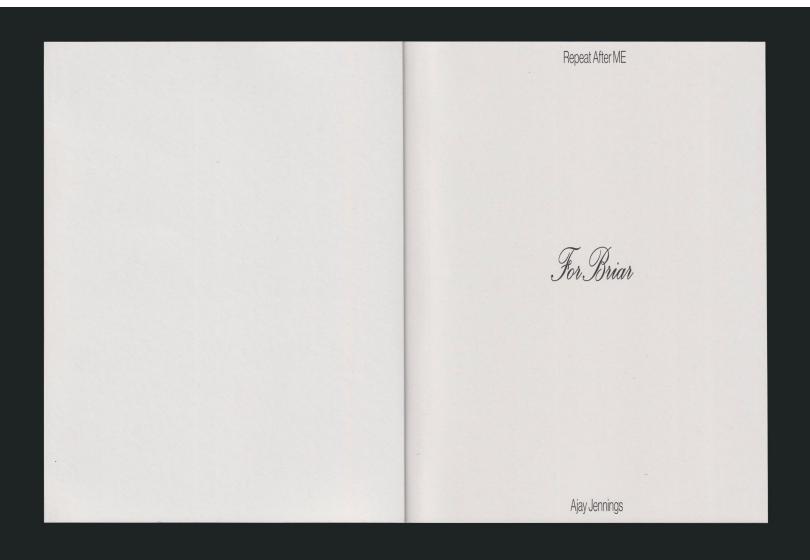
Of My Love, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm



Able, 2024 Ink and pencil on paper 254 x 203mm

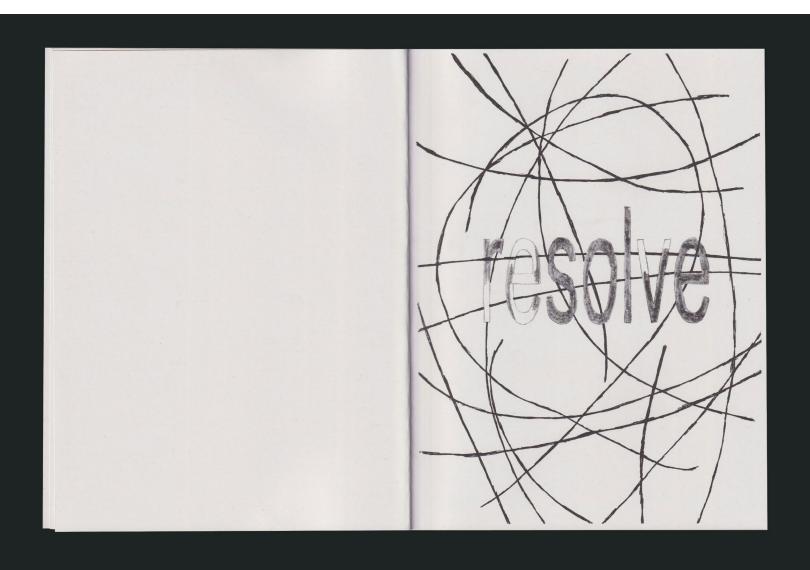


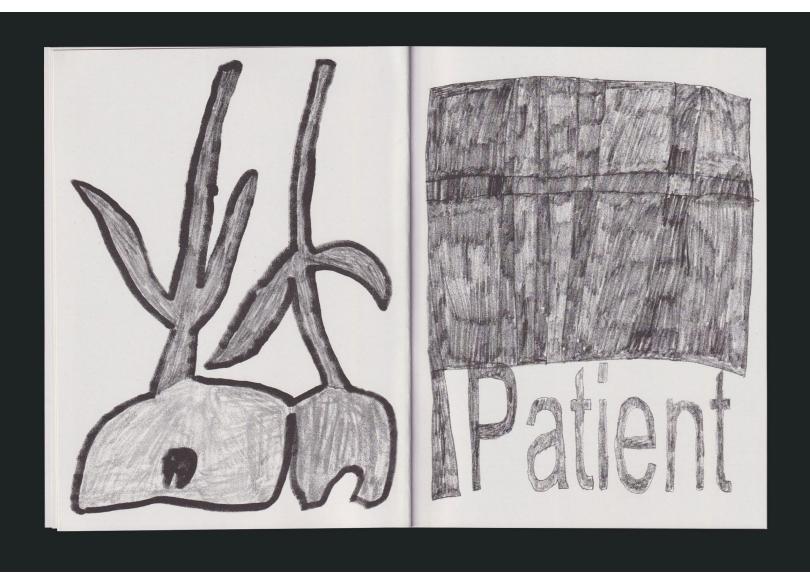
Repeat After ME, 2024 34 pages, 254 x 191mm Single-colour Risograph on Envirocare Limited edition of 50



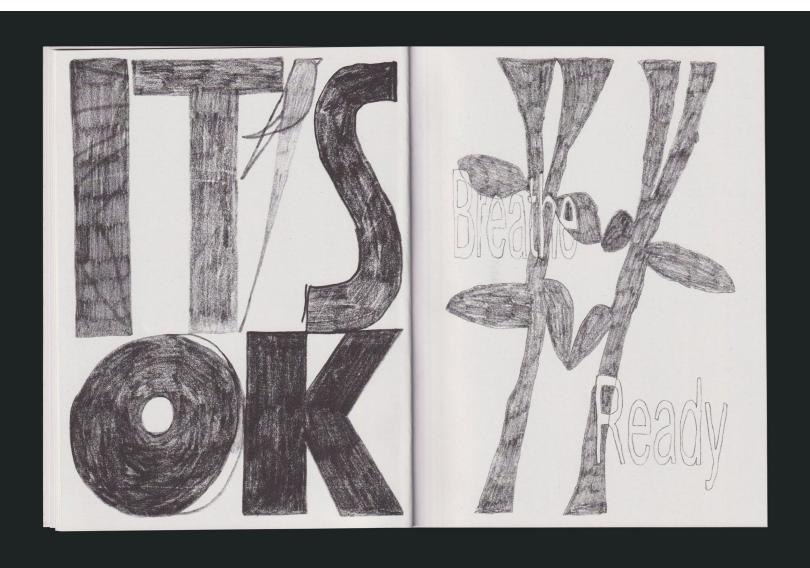
## Thumbs, fingers, palm, quads, knees, shins, arch of my foot, upper back, neck, upper arm—a constant low hum of pain pulses through these parts of my body, akin to the lingering ache after a blow or the aftermath of a fall. At the moment, these sensations arrive in waves every week or so, staying for just a few days. Though not intensely severe, their unpredictable arrival feels like some trying to coax you into a fight. They are harsh, abrasive, poorly timed, and unkind, often accompanied by profound fatigue. It's the type of weariness that demands every ounce of strength just to get up for the bathroom or pour a cuppa.

These flare-ups thrust me into frigid tundras where peripheral vision dims and my sense of self and reason dissolves amid growing exhaustion. Here, the sky mirrors the deep purple of a sunset having just died, vast and cold like the Australian outback on any given eve. Shooting stars and residual light draped over the sand offer the only sources of light. Loved ones speak to me—my parents, siblings, partner—but remain unseen. I try to grasp their words as they slip fluidly through my mind. In these challenging times, I can only hold onto fragments of conversations and resort to quietly humming simple mantras, navigating this arid landscape in search of guidance amidst these falling words.









Repeat After ME is the second exhibition of an ongoing project by Ajay Jennings that uses digital platforms to share the experience of living with Myalgic Encepha- lomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).
For all enquiries: email gday@ajayjennings.com, or direct message @ajayjennings  www.ajayjennings.com © 2024