

Biography

Ajay Jennings is a contemporary artist based in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia, whose creative journey began amidst the vibrant landscapes of the Mornington Peninsula. There, surrounded by renowned surf breaks and beaches, Ajay developed an affinity for sketching, a practice that remains central to his artistic process today. Drawing serves as both a tool for creative ideation and a therapeutic outlet across his diverse mediums, from self-published artist books to vibrant canvases and innovative garment design.

Exploring themes of abstraction and the expressive potential of art, Ajay's work is a visceral reflection of his daily life. His compositions, whether on canvas or denim, evolve through intuitive processes of addition, subtraction, and reinterpretation of color and form. Ajay graduated with a Bachelor of Design in Communication Design in 2016 and has since balanced freelance design work for global brands like Patagonia and VICE with his artistic endeavours.

For the last decade, Ajay has been living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), a complex and often misunderstood illness whereby he experiences debilitating fatigue for days, weeks, and sometimes, months at a time. In 2023, his condition worsened eventuating in a complete cessation of his many creative pursuits.

In 2024, Ajay has seen a vast improvement of his health condition. By exploring the limitations of his artistic production, Ajay has set out to create a body of work that sheds light on ME/CFS and details the process of his own recovery. The first part of the work is a collage series, Dormant Tree.

Education

2011–2016 Bachelor of Design (Communication Design), RMIT, Melbourne

Solo exhibitions

2024 Dormant Tree, Online exhibition
2021 Étranger, Missing Persons, Melbourne
2019 Saturn Returns, Gallery Boot, Fitzroy
2018 Hooroo, Hot & Cold studios, Brunswick East
2017 Monkey Back, Spurs, Brunswick
2015 Australian Escape, The Nook, Mornington

Selected group exhibitions

2023 Exterminating Pencil Vol.4, Cathedral Cabinet X Caves, Melbourne
2023 Urban Oasis, Melbourne Fashion Festival, Royal Exhibition Building
2022 Cathedral Cabinet Fundraiser
2022 Good Art Show, Currumbin Waters
2022 Art X Fashion, Melbourne Fashion Week, State Library Victoria
2022 Independent Runway, Melbourne Fashion Festival, Collingwood Yards
2020 Disorder, At The Above, Fitzroy
2018 Variations, Collins Place Gallery, Melbourne
2018 A Liminal Space, Collingwood Arts Precinct
2017 Back and Dead, Junior Space, Fitzroy
2017 ONE, Junior Space, Fitzroy
2017 Works Between 3 Friends, Spurs, Brunswick
2016 Pink Lemon, Mycelium Studios, Collingwood
2014 North South East West, The Light Factory gallery, Eltham

Press

2023 The designers redefining what 'new' clothes look like, The Age
2022 'Antipodeans' pays homage to the unique beauty of Australian fashion, Fashion Journal
2021 The magic of Naarm-based fashion label Moss Tunstall, Fashion Journal
2020 Moss Tunstall's second life denim, Acclaim Magazine