

DARREN KNIGHT GALLERY

JESS JOHNSON

Lives and works New York City, USA

1979

Born Tauranga, New Zealand.

1997 – 2001

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Canterbury University, New Zealand

SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2024

XYZZY, Liberty Science Centre, Jersey City, NJ, USA

XYZZY, (w/ Simon Ward), Great Hall at Electric Dreams @ Freemason's Hall, Adelaide Fringe
g/re/p, (w/ Cynthia Johnson), Co-Lab Projects, Austin, Texas, USA

2023

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Central Goldfields Gallery, VIC

Honk if you don't exist & XYZZY, Roswell Artist-in-Residence Exhibition, Roswell Museum and Goddard Planetarium, Roswell, New Mexico, USA

we can't keep going the way we've been going but we know no other way to go, atrium banners, Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, NSW

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Hyphen Wodonga, VIC

XYZZY, (w/ Simon Ward), Now or Never, Melbourne Museum

2022

CORE DUMP, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, USA

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Hamilton Gallery, Victoria

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, NSW

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Hastings City Art Gallery. Hastings, New Zealand

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, NSW

we can't keep going the way we've been going but we know no other way to go, atrium banners, Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria

2021

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Carins Art Gallery, Queensland

Quilts, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Oculus Rift

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW

2020

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Plimsoll Gallery, Hobart, Australia

Terminus, The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, 14 November 2020 - 7 March 2021

2019

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, VIC

Neon Meat Dream, Nanzuka Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Panspermia, Sing Omega, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, USA

Terminus (w/Simon Ward) Tauranga, New Zealand

Terminus (w/ Simon Ward), Tauranga Art Museum, Tauranga, NZ

Artist Wall Commission, Facebook HQ, New York, NY, USA

2018

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Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, *Genetekka Archaic*, a collaboration based on an old school video game, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand, (ongoing).

Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, *Whol Why Wurd* 2017 Melbourne Art Fair TIME Sector, Melbourne, Australia

Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, *Terminus*, Balnaves Contemporary Art Intervention, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

2017

Everything not saved will be lost, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, USA

Jess Johnson and Andrew Clarke, *Chondrule Terminus*, Dark Mofo, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Hex Nemesis, Fremantle Arts Centre, Australia

Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, Four AM Gallery in association with Untitled Art Far, San Francisco, USA

2016

Art Basel Hong Kong, *Discoveries*, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong

Eclectrc Panoptic, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

2015

Wurm Haus, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Sensorium Chamber, Ivan Anthony Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

Endless Future Terror Forever, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Gertrude Edition 2015, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, Australia

Mnemonic Pulse, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre, Auckland, New Zealand

Electric Affinity: Jess Johnson and Tina Havelock-Stevens, Alaska Projects, Sydney, Australia

2014

Mnemonic Pulse, Gertrude Contemporary, Studio 12, Melbourne, Australia

Ratholes in the Babylon of Information, Ivan Anthony Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

Gamma World, MCA Façade, Vivid Festival, Sydney, Australia

2013

Bloodfins & Whipwurm, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Wurm Whorl Narthex, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, New Zealand

Jess Johnson, Utopian Slumps, Auckland Art Fair, Auckland, New Zealand

2011

The Rest is Silence, Death Be Kind Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

2010

No Soul For Sale, Tate Modern, London, UK (with Jordan Marani)

2009

Hell Is Other People, Inflight Gallery, Tasmania, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

Flippin Heck, Hell Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

Home Is Where My Hell Is, Switchback Gallery, Gippsland, Victoria, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

Who Cut The Cheese? Two Giants of Contemporary Art Talk Frankly Of Monumental Things, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

2008

Hellraiser: The Directors Cut, Hell Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

2007

This Is Not A Love Schlong, Utopian Slumps, Melbourne, Australia (with Jordan Marani)

2003

DARREN KNIGHT GALLERY

The future is not what it used to be, The Kiosk – A Physics Room Art Site, New Zealand

2002

Little Beasts, High Street Project, New Zealand

2000

This Animal is Mischievous, High Street Project, New Zealand

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

The Lightship with Simon Ward, Port of Auckland, New Zealand

Winter Colour, Kishka Gallery and Library, White River Junction, Vermont, USA

2023

Thinking Through Pink, curated by Dr Sally Gray, Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW

INCARNATION: A group exhibition exploring imaginary notions of the human form (w/ Simon Ward), Vellum, Los Angeles, USA

Group Exhibition, Darren Knight Gallery Sydney, Australia

Holding pattern, (w/ Cynthia Johnson) Haus of Vovo, New Norfolk, Tasmania

2022

Disintegration: Metadrawing and Expanded Drawing, curated by Jonathan McBurnie, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville

The Gertrude Editions, Geelong Gallery, VIC

Thinking Through Pink, curated by Dr Sally Gray, Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW

2021

Collection + Jess Johnson / Eduardo Paolozzi, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery Spring Festival of Drawing 2021, Melbourne

Sans: fragments and cohesion, Mary Cherry Contemporary Art, Melbourne

2020

Terminus, South by South West (SXSW) Festival, Austin, Texas, USA

Umwelt, online exhibition, Daily Rush, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, USA

MPRG: FIFTY, Mornington Peninsular Regional Gallery, online

2019

I could sleep for a thousand years, curated by Jon Campbell, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Fractal Labyrinth, Occult Humanities Conference, New York University, NY, USA

Shenzhen New Media Arts Festival, Shenzhen, China

Psychedelic Healing Center, Essex Flowers, New York, NY, USA

Nanzuka Art Gallery Booth, Art Basel, Hong Kong

2018

Gothic Beauty: Victorian notions of love, loss and spirituality, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria, Australia

Obsession: Devil in the Detail, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria, Australia

Charmed Contemporary: Works from the Collection, Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW, Australia

Darren Knight Gallery at Spring 1883, Windsor Hotel, Melbourne 1 – 4 August 2018

And Tomorrow And, Index, Stockholm, Sweden

Walters Prize, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand

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The Public Body 03, Artspace, Sydney, Australia

Children of Mallarme – Fashion, Art and Collaboration, Tauranga Art Gallery, New Zealand

The Shape of Things to Come, Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia

2017-2018

Let's Play: Let's Play: Art of our time, Bunjil Place Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2017

Jess Johnson + Simon Ward, *4th Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts/STRESS FIELD*, Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, China

Darren Knight Gallery at Spring 1883, Room 55, The Establishment Hotel, Sydney, Australia

Drawing, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

HB No 6, Centre Clark, Montreal, Canada

Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, *Whol Wyl Wurld, The National: New Australian Art 2017*, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia

2016

NADA Miami Beach, Jack Hanley Gallery, Miami, USA

MIKE, Curated by Todd von Ammon, Four AM Gallery, New York, USA

New World Order, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia

Tricking the eye – contemporary trompe l'oeil, Geelong Gallery, Australia

SPRING 1883, Room 224, Hotel Windsor, Melbourne, Australia

Future Nature, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, USA

POP 01: VR + Art + Music, Toronto International Film Festival, Canada

2015

Guirguis New Art Prize, Gallery of Ballarat and Post Office Gallery, Federation University, Australia

Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, curated by Lars Bang Larsen & Marco Pasi, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia

Hiding in Plain Sight: a selection of works from the Buxton Collection, Bendigo Art Gallery, Australia

Spring 1883, Ivan Anthony Suite, Establishment Hotel, Sydney, Australia

2014

Spring 1883, Darren Knight Gallery, Suite 224, The Hotel Windsor, Melbourne, Australia

Don't Hide The Hate, Slopes Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2014 National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Australia

2013

Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Future Primitive, Heidi Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

Wurm Whorl Narthex, in Populate!, Christchurch Art Gallery, New Zealand

Nocturne, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne, Australia

Gertrude Studios, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia

2012

The Collector's Edition, Death Be Kind Project Space, Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, Australia

Like, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney, Australia

Bellowing Echoes, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, Australia

Where There is Smoke There is Fire, Death Be Kind Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

The Edge of the Universe, Shepperton Art Gallery, Shepperton, Victoria, Australia

2010

Knowing You, Knowing Me: New Artists Show 2010, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand

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Hell's Bottom Drawer, Hell Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2009

I Walk the Line: New Australian Drawing, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

2008

Jam, Peloton Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Honk If You Love Contemporary Art, Ryan Renshaw Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

Flux Capacitor, Utopian Slumps, Melbourne, Australia

Robert Jacks Drawing Prize, finalist, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, Australia

Dirty Popsicles, Peloton Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Informal Rituals, tcb Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

The Monobrow Show, Hell Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2007

Cut n' Paste, Peloton Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Funny Ha Ha, The Narrows, Melbourne, Australia

Zonal Marx - A Drawing Project, VCA Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2006

Victims of Drawing Support Group, Victoria Park Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

COMMISSIONS

2015

Sensorium Machine, Gertrude Edition, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, Australia

2013

Outer Head of the Order, acquisitive commission for Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

AWARDS

2018

Finalist, Walters Prize, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand

2014

Recipient of a City of Yarra, Arts Development Grant, Australia

Winner, 2014 National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Australia

2013

The John McCaughey Memorial Prize, Acquisitive commission of *Outer Head of the Order* installation for National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

RESIDENCIES AND PROJECTS

2023

Antireality Perversion Void, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

Artist in residence, Roswell-Artist-in-Residence Programme, New Mexico, USA

2022

Antireality Perversion Void, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

2021

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Te Whare Hera International Art Residency, Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand

2019

Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, USA

McCahon House Residency, New Zealand

2018

MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire

International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York, USA

2016

Bemis Center for Contemporary Art: Sci Fi and the Human Condition Thematic Residency, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland

Australian Council, *Greene St* residency, New York, USA

2015

Residential studio residency at ARTSPACE, Sydney, Australia

2013-15

Studio resident at Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia

2013

Asialink three month residency at Tokyo Wonder Site, Japan

2012

Represented Death Be Kind Gallery at the Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, Australia

2010

Participation in *No Soul For Sale* – a festival of 50 worldwide independent galleries, Tate Modern, London, UK

Presenting Hell Gallery at the Melbourne Art Fair Project Spaces/

Presenting Hell Gallery as part of the

exhibition *Harrel Fletcher: The Sound We Make Together* at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

2009

Gippsland Centre for Art and Design (GCAD), residency and exhibition (Switchback Gallery), facilitated by Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia

2008-11

Founder and co-director of Hell Gallery / www.hellgallery.blogspot.com

COLLECTIONS

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia

Michael Buxton Collection, Melbourne, Australia

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand

Artbank, Australia

James Wallace Arts Trust, New Zealand

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2025

Liz Ohanesian, *Everything not saved will be lost: Jess Johnson*, *Hi Fructose Magazine*, October 12 2025

2020

Farr, K., *Jess Johnson: Infinite Quest*, *Juxtapoz Art and Culture Magazine*, Summer 2020

Butler, O., *Artist Jess Johnson shares the arts and pop culture obsessions she's loving right now*, *Fashion Quarterly*, Summer Issue, 2020

2019

Hurrell, John, *Jess Johnson and Simon Ward, 50 Things / Curator's Radar*, *Art Collector Magazine* #87, Jan – March 2019

2018

Alexander, J. *Fruit bowls, flowers and crustaceans*, Catalogue essay, *Obsession: Devil in the detail*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, 2018

Virtual Reality, *Artlink*, Issue 38:4, December 2018

Video Interview, *Jess Johnson & Simon Ward*, National Gallery of Australia, June 2018

Babington, Jaklyn, *Terminus Artist Interview*, National Gallery of Australia, May 2018

Bentley, Serena, *Wurms Rule, the work of Jess Johnson*, *Bulletin*, Summer 2018-19, Christchurch Art Gallery, New Zealand 2018.

Christian, Dionne, *Artists in residence: Where artists find their happy place*, *New Zealand Herald*, May 2018

Fazel, Mahmood, *Can VR Change the Way We Engage with Contemporary Art?* *Vice Magazine*, May 2018

Gordan, Margaret, *Surreal virtual reality show Terminus moves viewers to tears*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 2018

Hills Duty, Rebecca, *New surreal VR exhibit Terminus opens at National Gallery Australia*, *VR Focus*, May 2018

Black, Michael, *Tour the trippy world of virtual reality with Terminus at National Gallery*, ABC News, May 2018

Gordan, Margaret, *Mind bending virtual reality work opens at National Gallery*, Fairfax Video, May 2018
Walters Prize nominees announced, *New Zealand Herald*, March 2018

2017

Wyma, Chloe, *Jess Johnson*, *ArtForum*, November 2017

Caroline, Jessica; Interview, *Caught In Eternal Digital Glitches*, *Filthy Dreams*, October 2017

Smith, Andy, *Jess Johnson's Otherworldly Drawings*, *Hi Fructose*, September 2017

Pellerin, Ananda, *Whol Why Wurd*, *Nowness Editors Picks*, September 2017

Where there are walls, Jess Johnson, Exhibition picks, September 2017

Everything not saved will be lost by Jess Johnson at Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, Blouin Art Info, September 2017

Editors, *Hyperallergic's horoscopes offer astrological advice for artists and art types*, in *art terms* (Cancer), September 2017

Johnson, Paddy, *A Season for Art*, What should we do, September 2017

Art Viewer, *Jess Johnson at Jack Hanley Gallery*, September 2017

Jess Johnson Selects: Platform Games and Obstinate Monsters, *Garage Mag*, October 2017

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Mandryk, Chloe, Interview, *Jess Johnson: Hex Nemesis*, [Art Almanac](#), June 2017

Huxley, Will, *Artist Profile*, *Art Makers*, ABC Arts, May 2017

Laird, Tessa, *Jess Johnson & Simon Ward*, Carriageworks Catalogue, 2017

2016

Gavin, Holly, Review, *Jess Johnson brings together sci-fi and high technology with aplomb for her Talbot Rice solo show*, *The Skinny*, September 2016

Thorpe, Harriet, *Artist Profile*, *Jess Johnson: My work is a visual stew*, [Studio International](#), September 2016

Nunes, Andrew, *Dune Meets Psychedelic VR in a New Immersive Art Experience*, The Creators Project/Vice TV, August 2016

Art In Scotland TV, *Jess Johnson and Simon Ward : Eclectrc Panoptic*, July 2016

Szilak, Ilya, *Artist Profile*, *Jess Johnson and the New Language of Virtual Reality*, [Huffington Post](#), July 2016

Frank, Priscilla, *Sci-Fi Drawings Explore A World Beyond Reality and Today's Technology*, [Huffington Post](#), May 2016

Pasture, Dylan, *The gorgeous, unsettling worlds of Jess Johnson*, [Versions](#), April 2016

Mullally, Liam, Interview/Profile, *Panoptical illusions*, The Nouse, March 2016

2015

Bentley, Serena, Exhibition Essay, *Jess Johnson: Wurm Haus*, NGV website, 2015

McNamara, T.J., Review, *Impressive detail to dazzling forms*, [New Zealand Herald](#), December 2015

Ross, Annabel, *Through the wormhole*, [Sydney Morning Herald](#), December 2015

Alber, Tom, Review, *Oculus Rift Artwork or Out-Of-Body Experience?* The Creator's Project/[Vice Magazine](#), December 2015

Capp, Mem, *Review*, Artshub, December 2015

Hurrell, John, *Jess Johnson Prints and Drawings*, [EyeContact](#), December 2015

Cox, Will; Review, *Jess Johnson's Wurm Haus*, [Broadsheet](#) Magazine, December 2015

Gallo, Rebecca, *Nostalgic Computer Art From An Imaginary Post-Computer World*, [Vault](#) Magazine, Issue 12 November 2015

Fehily, Toby, *Jess Johnson*, [ArtGuide](#) Australia, November 2015

Johnstone, Rose, Interview, *Wurm Haus*, [Time Out](#) Magazine, November 2015

Lang, Ben, Review, *Ixian Gate is a Mind-bending VR Ride Through the World of Artist Jess Johnson, Road to VR*, September 2015

Gordon, Margaret, Interview, *Talking Oculus Rift Artwork with Jess Johnson & Simon Ward*, The Creator's Project, [Vice Magazine](#), July 2015

2014

Laird, Tessa, *Gnostic Influx: Jess Johnson Decodes Demonic Data*, [Art & Australia](#), Issue 52.1, 2014

McNamara, T.J., *World of light and shadows*, [The New Zealand Herald](#), May 2014

Hurrell, J, *Jess Johnson Drawings*, [EyeContact](#), May 2014

Anderson, Julia, *Young New Zealander clinches John McCaughey Prize*, [Gallery Magazine](#), National Gallery of Victoria, Jan-Feb 2014 Issue

Ed. *Melbourne Now*, [Artist Profile](#), Issue 25, 2013-14

2013

McNamara, Andrew and Ann Stephen, Catalogue Essay, *The Double Risk of Primitivism*, [Future Primitive](#) exhibition catalogue, 2013

Barkley, Glenn, *Chaos Reigns*, [Cat People](#), Issue 1, 2013

Murray, Phip; *Artist Profile*, [Art Collector](#) Magazine, Issue 67, 2013

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Radio Interview with Odile Gotts, Tuesday Breakfast Show, 3CR Community Radio, December 2013

Mannan, Anika, Two Thousand Review, December 2013

Radio Interview with Vincent O'Donnell, Upbeat, Radio New Zealand, November 2013

Westwood, Matthew, *It Takes a City*, The Australian, November 2013

Helper, Roslyn, *Primavera 2013*, Concrete Playground Review, September 2013

Woodward, A, *Primavera Posse*, Art Collector, Issue 65, July-September 2013

Feeney, Warren, *Christchurch Art Gallery 10th Anniversary*, EyeContact, May 2013

Paton, Justin, *Artist Talk Q&A*, Christchurch Art Gallery website, May 2013

Cook, Robert, *Jess Johnson Austerity Measures*, Primavera 13 exhibition catalogue, 2013

Backhouse, M, *Complexly Primitive*, Art Guide, January/February 2013

2012

Wark, Scott, *Next Wave at Gertrude Contemporary*, Realtime Magazine, Issue 109, June 2012

2010

Pye, Harry, Interview, The Rebel Magazine (UK), November 2010

Hurrell, John, *Infusing fresh blood*, EyeContact, August 2010

Paton, J, *Jess Johnson: Wurm Whorl Narthex*, Bulletin B.172, Winter: May-August 2013, Christchurch Art Gallery

Loughnan, Melissa, Interview, *Hell & Back*, The Blackmail, April 2010

Television Feature, *Hell Gallery*, Art Nation ABC, May 2010

Television Feature, *Hell Gallery*, Stateline ABC, April 2010