

# THE WALL

art gallery

## **Ashvin Harrison – Biography**

Ashvin Harrison is a self-taught artist known for his distinctive techniques, blending coconut charcoal dust, oil paint, and acrylic splashes to create emotionally rich and thought-provoking artworks. His paintings capture the beauty of everyday moments, emotions, and fantasies. Since becoming a professional artist in 2017, his unique style and meticulous attention to detail have earned him worldwide recognition. His work has been featured in magazines, TV shows, news articles, and catalogs, with pieces held in private and corporate collections across 40+ countries and 100+ cities.

Ashvin's creativity is deeply influenced by his life experiences, including struggles with misophonia and PTSD. His work is an exploration of the human condition, purpose, and emotion. Beyond painting, he also composes orchestral and ensemble music, further expanding his artistic expression.

## **Early Life & Struggles**

Born in Elizabeth, Australia, Ashvin grew up in a working-class environment and moved frequently, attending eight different schools. Despite being a high-achieving student, his father pressured him to drop out of school in grade 10 to start working. At just 15, he became a kitchen hand and was soon offered an apprenticeship as a chef. However, relentless bullying from an older chef led him to quit. He briefly worked in a café before convincing his father to allow him to return to high school.

Ashvin resumed his education but was uprooted again, moving to Toowoomba and living in a youth hostel at age 16. In early year 12, his father pressured him to leave school once more. He quit both his studies and his casual job to take up hairdressing. Though he enjoyed the craft, he felt out of place and, over time, became disillusioned.

From age 14 onward, Ashvin took on any job he could to afford rent and food, working in fast food, cleaning, retail, and manual labor. He often became restless, finding repetitive work unfulfilling. Eventually, he secured a scholarship to complete a year 12 equivalent course, which allowed him to enroll in university for teaching. To support himself, he juggled multiple jobs, including toilet cleaning, abattoir work, wedding photography, camp coordinating, website building, night-shift shelf stocking, and playing music in bands.

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## **Work with Google & Emotional Turmoil**

Just before finishing his teaching degree, Ashvin was recruited by Google Australia for the **Google Maps – Street View** project. He spent years traveling across Australia and New Zealand, mapping roads, troubleshooting technology, and working on global safety procedures. While the job was an exciting adventure, it left him questioning his long-term purpose.

Seeking a more meaningful career, Ashvin became an Investigation Officer for Child Safety. The job exposed him to harrowing cases of abuse and neglect, forcing him to make life-altering decisions for vulnerable children. Although he was considered highly successful in the role, the legal definitions of "success" often clashed with his personal sense of justice. The emotional toll of witnessing systemic failures and human suffering became overwhelming. After months of inner conflict, he made the difficult choice to leave.

At the same time, Ashvin's only close family member, his grandfather, passed away. His grandfather had been one of the few positive influences in his life, and losing him was devastating. This period marked a turning point—mentally and emotionally drained, Ashvin turned to art as a way to find focus and purpose.

## **Transition to Art & Teaching**

Hoping to build a more stable future, Ashvin returned to teaching, working as a high school drama, math, and media instructor. His ability to connect with students was profound, and he found joy in inspiring young minds. Within a year, he was promoted to Head of Department—a challenging role given his limited management experience outside of fast food and his time at Google. While he appreciated the responsibility, something still felt missing.

During this time, Ashvin continued creating art in his spare hours, never expecting it to be anything more than a personal escape. But as he quietly shared his work online, he was shocked to find an audience that deeply resonated with his creations. People wanted to buy his paintings. Orders grew, and Ashvin found himself at a crossroads—remain in a stable career or risk everything to pursue his passion.

## **Becoming an Artist**

Despite widespread advice to play it safe, Ashvin took the leap, leaving his teaching career to become a full-time artist. The decision changed his life. His work quickly gained traction, and he relocated from Toowoomba to Brisbane, immersing himself in a new creative environment before eventually settling on the Sunshine Coast.

Beyond painting, Ashvin is a skilled musician, proficient in piano, guitar, bass, drums, and trumpet. He has composed orchestral works and enjoys transposing music for different

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instruments. His creative mind never rests, always seeking new ways to express beauty and emotion.

Now, Ashvin creates daily, capturing the past, present, and future through his art. His journey—from hardship and uncertainty to artistic success—serves as a testament to resilience, passion, and the power of following one's true calling.

## **Highlights:**

- No.1 artist by sales on the world's largest online gallery Singularart for 2021 & 2022
- Art featured in several TV shows, news features and movies for Apple TV, Netflix and regular channels
- Artworks held by private and corporate collectors in over 50 countries
- Established and growing network of commercial gallery representation
- Average artwork value has increased by 40-120% year on year since 2014
- Collaborated with world No.1 tennis player Ash Barty for sponsor Rado and major television coverage of a portrait artwork auctioned off for a record sum during the Australian Open 2022.
- Over 2 million followers and subscribers on social media platforms with very strong engagement from art collectors, galleries, fans and celebrity collectors.
- The world's top ranking contemporary artist on the top 5 major open edition print company websites.
- The first contemporary artist in the world to outsell almost all of the classic masters including Leonardo DaVinci and Pablo Picasso in the European online art print market (refer to attachment by Europe's largest art print company Posterlounge). Currently ranking 4th behind Monet, Van Gough and Klimt.