EMILY MORTON

Interdisciplinary visual artist | portraiture, memory and recorded voice

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Practice profile

Emily Morton is an Adelaide-based interdisciplinary visual artist working across fine-line drawing, painting, photography, recorded voice and socially engaged storytelling. Her practice investigates memory, invisible experience, emotional endurance and the traces people leave behind. Living with chronic pain is an active source of inquiry, shaping her attention to experiences that cannot be read from appearance alone. She is developing listening portraiture: a consent-led method in which immediate drawings made during life-story conversations are transformed through repeated listening into layered visual portraits. Her practice is informed by more than a decade of photographic and moving-image storytelling and by camera-free approaches to voice preservation.

Selected current projects

2026-current | Lead artist - Voices That Remain: Drawn from Memory

Developing a participatory visual and sound art practice connecting life-story recordings with fine-line portraiture, listening drawings and ethical audio presentation. The project asks whether a person can be portrayed through listening rather than looking.

2026-current | Visual artist - Imagining the Invisible

An ongoing body of figurative and symbolic painting exploring chronic invisible illness, psychological endurance and the coexistence of grief and hope. The work uses simplified figures, architectural spaces, abstraction and recurring contrasts between confinement and openness.

Current | Artist - The Keep Co

Fine-line ink and watercolour portraits, animals, family scenes and meaningful architectural landmarks. The work reduces subjects to essential, recognisable marks while prioritising intimacy, memory and emotional presence over realism.

2026-current | Founder and creative director - Memory Line

An Adelaide practice exploring voice preservation through recorded storytelling, vintage telephone installations, guided Legacy & Life sessions, private audio presentation and optional fine-line artworks. Emily leads creative direction, prompts, artwork, audio editing, participant experience and the development of access- and consent-led methods.

Artforms and methods

- Fine-line ink drawing and minimalist portraiture
- Figurative painting and restrained watercolour
- Sound recording, audio editing and listening-based practice
- Photography, videography and digital storytelling
- Participatory and socially engaged art
- Consent-led oral-history and life-story methods
- Installation concepts and vintage telephone listening interfaces
- Accessibility-informed communication and participant care

Selected professional practice

2015-2025 | Founder, filmmaker and photographer - Emily Jade Productions

Created more than 100 personalised films and photographic works documenting weddings, families and significant life moments. Managed filming, photography, editing, creative direction, client relationships and final delivery. This ten-year practice established Emily's long-running inquiry into memory, personal narrative and emotional presence.

Various | Marketing and content roles - South Australian community, education and events organisations

Creative production, photography, videography, campaign storytelling, graphic design, website content and community-facing communications. Organisations include World Youth International, Glen Ewin Estate, New Creation Group and Torrens Valley Christian School.

Education

2016-2020 | Bachelor of Media - University of Adelaide

Interdisciplinary media study supporting photographic, moving-image, communication and digital storytelling practice.

2016 | Diploma of Communication and Design - European Institute of Design

Study in visual communication, design and creative practice.

Lived-experience artistic perspective

Emily's experience of chronic pain is an active source of artistic inquiry and motivation, informing her interest in invisible experience, endurance, the labour of listening and forms of recognition that do not depend on appearance. Her developing practice uses camera-free conversation, clear consent and private or selectively shared outcomes to explore how drawing and sound can hold experiences that are not immediately visible.

Selected online work

- Memory Line - voice, installation and storytelling practice
- Emily Jade Productions - selected photography and moving-image work

Prepared for Creative Australia's Helsinki International Artist Programme application, August 2026.