

BIOGRAPHY

Stefano Chiassai

Artist, fashion designer, art director and author, Stefano Chiassai explores the essence of everyday life through drawing and experimentation with materials and multimedia. His art develops through gestural lines and patterns and textures, in which materials and graphic signs merge to create works with a strong visual impact. Drawing is at the core of his creative process, a means by which he explores the relationship between memory, identity and innovation. His work is based on a continuous investigation into time and its expressive possibilities, charting new directions in the world of fashion, creativity and contemporary art.

Born in Arezzo, Chiassai entered the world of fashion at a very young age. After studying at the Florence Art Institute, in 1980 he created his eponymous brand, Stefano Chiassai. In 1987 his concept of fashion represented Italian style at the III Biennial of Young Artists in Barcelona. From 1988 to 2000 he taught Menswear Fashion Design at Polimoda in Florence, where he shared his innovative experimental approach.

In 1994 he discontinued his brand in order to co-found SCS Studio Chiassai (1995) with his wife, Alessandra Dall'Anese. Specialising in creative consultancy and focusing on style and trend consulting for numerous luxury brands, the studio immediately gained international recognition, which continues to this day.

Since the early 2000s, he has designed several international menswear lines founded on an aesthetic where traditional craftsmanship meets new technologies. In 2009, he became the designer of Fendi Uomo menswear range.

In 2018, at the Napoleonic Hall of the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan, Stefano Chiassai and Paola Maddaluno (lecturer in Textile Design) curated the exhibition UNAVITADALEM, part of a menswear fashion project in which students created work that engaged with the neoclassical sculptures on display in the Napoleonic Hall.

Over the years the Tuscan artist has compiled a collection of more than 20,000 vintage garments, housed today at TheCube Archive, co-founded in 2021 with his daughter, Corinna, as a lively meeting place for designers, artists, musicians, students and creatives eager to interact.

In November 2021, Chiassai gave a lecture at the Manifattura Tabacchi del Polimoda in Florence entitled 'The Importance of Research in the Designer's Creative Process, and How the Way of Communicating Ideas Has Evolved'.

From 18 December to 9 January 2021, the ancient parish church of San Giovanni Battista in San Giovanni Valdarno (Arezzo) hosted *Diario di un Lockdown*, Chiassai's artistic reflection on the experiences of the pandemic, presented in his unmistakable graphic style. In conjunction with the exhibition, Silvana Editoriale published the first book entirely dedicated to his art. This first exhibition was followed by several others, hosted in public and private venues. Also in 2021, a number of Chiassai's works were included in the *Aria italiana* project, curated by Gianfranco Maraniello, Alberto Salvadori and Vincenzo Trione; realised in collaboration with Fondazione ICA Milano and promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 8 April to the 15 May 2022, as a further exploration of the link between art and social transformation, *Diario di un Lockdown* was hosted at the Piero della Francesca Municipal Gallery of Contemporary Art in Arezzo, curated by Lisetta Fornasari with the collaboration of Carlo Sisi.

From 5 March to 4 April 2023, the ADI Design Museum in Milan hosted *Oltre il Lockdown*, curated by Paola Maddaluno: a gallery of thoughts and reflections in which Chiassai's drawings revisited the most significant moments of the pandemic. In a natural evolution and fusion of the Tuscan artist and designer's creativity, the exhibition definitively revealed his desire for artistic expression in the form of graphic and design elements already evident in his work as a fashion designer. In April of the same year, Chiassai gave a lecture entitled 'La ricerca e l'intuizione del fare' at the IULM in Milan.

Also in 2023, the MAD Murate Art District in Florence hosted *Drawing Everyday. Diario visivo di Stefano Chiassai*, curated by art historian Valentina Gensini. This evocative fusion of expressive forms synthesised the dialogue between Florence's historical past, intensely linked to tapestry design, and contemporary art, in the form of installations combining art and design. During the exhibition, three never previously exhibited tapestries were presented in the presence of the artist, the master weaver Giovanni Bonotto, and Perla Gianni, Presidente di ADI – Associazione per il Disegno Industriale Toscana.

In Berlin, on 31 May and 1 June 2023, Chiassai was a guest at the 'Denim Premier Vision Berlin' event as the protagonist of an exhibition and conference entitled *Blue Tailoring: Denim Becomes Sartorial*, during which he also presented his book *Blue Tailoring*.

In December 2023, the Italian daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera* selected one of Chiassai's felt-tip pen works on *Future* paper as the logo for the Casa Corriere Festival and its theme 'Il coraggio delle scelte', held at the Palazzo Reale in Naples.

From 12 April to 31 May 2024, Galleria AD Dal Pozzo in Padua dedicated the *Time. Colors and Memory* exhibition to Chiassai, a part of which was also shown at Ottagono Milan from 16 to 21 April, in conjunction with Design Week.

On 26 June 2024, based on a project initiated during the 2023 Festival della Partecipazione, 'Panchine Gentili', benches designed by Chiassai, were placed in a semicircle in a pine forest in San Giovanni Valdarno as an invitation to conviviality, communication and reciprocal kindness.

On 7 December 2024, the group exhibition *Arte in Corso Italia*, curated by Paola Maddaluno and based on an idea by Stefano Chiassai, opened in San Giovanni Valdarno. The exhibition theme was the relationship between the urban context and artistic expression.

In April 2025, Marius Hordijk, director of TheCube Archive, created 15 covers for his music playlist *The Weekly*, using details from a Chiassai work on paper.

In 2025 Chiassai was invited to present his exhibition *Velvet Mi Amor* from 8 March to 8 June at the Museo del Tessuto in Prato, to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution's foundation. Composed of 24 tall anthropomorphic figures dressed in velvet clothes, the show reaffirmed his inclination to experiment with different techniques and materials.

Also in 2025, one of Chiassai's works in felt-tip pen on paper was the selected poster image for the 12th edition of the international art exhibition *Stills of Peace and Everyday Life*, conceived and curated by Giovanna Dello Iacono and held in Pescara from 5 July to 7 September.

On 26 October 2025, the Complesso di Sant'Agostino in Pietrasanta is presenting the major exhibition *Incantamento*, curated by art critic Gianluca Ranzi. Comprising a selection of more than 100 works, most of them never shown before, the site-specific exhibition interacts with the surrounding space, evoking in viewers not only ancient and contemporary memories but also individual and collective emotions.

Various publications, produced in collaboration with his daughter Corinna, accompany Chiassai's multifaceted creative activity: *Caos Ordinato*, Nuova Libra Editrice (2016); *Ritmo Emotivo*, Nuova Libra Editrice (2018); *Blue Tailoring*, SilvanaEditoriale (2019); *Diario di un Lockdown. 8 March 2020 – 31 August 2021*, SilvanaEditoriale (2020); *Velvet Mi Amor*, Dario Cimorelli Editore (2024).