

AWARDS & SHORTLISTS

- 2023 *Served Bold*
Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Award
WINNER: Ursula Hoff Institute Award
- White Noise*
Banyule Award for Works on Paper
WINNER: Peoples' Choice Award
- Gethsemane Binary*
Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize
- 2021 *Miss Information*
Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Award
- Gethsemane (Garden of Tears)*
Banyule Award for Works on Paper
- 2019 *Motherboard (Calefaction)*
Banyule Award for Works on Paper

ACQUISITIONS

- 2023 *Served Bold*, Geelong Gallery
- 2020 *Motherboard Portal (Verde)*,
ACU Art Collection, Melbourne

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Sideshow*, Storehouse St Kilda
- 2024 *Motherboard*, fortyfivedownstairs
- 2022 *Sacellum*, fortyfivedownstairs
- 2019 *Conventicle*, fortyfivedownstairs
- 2015 *Bone Idol*, fortyfivedownstairs

INVITATIONALS

- 2022 *Bakehouse Art Project*
Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

GROUP SHOWS

- 2025 *Burning Inside*, Charles Sturt University
- 2021 *10 Artists in 10 Weeks*
- 2020 *Here* (online), fortyfivedownstairs
- 2019-22 *Linden Postcard Show*, St Kilda

MEDIA

- 2023 *Contemporary Visions: Works from the ACU Art Collection*
Chris Orr, Word for Word, Joy FM
- Chris Orr – Gethsemane Binary*,
Still Life with Pansy, Main FM
- 2022 *Chris Orr, The Jewell of Art*
The Art Hunter TV, Ep 23

EDUCATION

- 1985–6 Art & Design, Prahran Institute
- 1984–5 Graphic Design, Swinburne University

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chris Orr is of European and Aboriginal descent. He was accidentally born in London to Australian parents, grew up in Melbourne (mostly) and lives with his partner and staffy in St Kilda.

After studying art & design and graphic design at a tertiary level in the 1980s, in 1996 he founded a graphic design practice, Beige, strongly anchored in the street art aesthetic.

Chris believes art can be created from the most mundane of objects – in part derived from working in graphic design, where you are often called upon to 'polish a turd'. Given a subject, Chris storyboards it into the third dimension.

His first serious venture into the art world came about when a friend presented him with a plastic doll's head and challenged him to 'make art out of it'. The result was the '*Dolly*' series: oversize digital manipulations baked onto canvas and paper. Melancholy and mesmerising, they contained a sinister beauty. Displayed only in the foyer of an architect's firm in Sydney in 2001, the series was expanded and successfully sold to collectors in Melbourne, Sydney, Berlin and Osaka.

In 2014, Chris took a leap of faith, winding down his graphic design practice and devoting himself to art full time. With the purchase of a skull from a medical supplies store, the '*Bone Idol*' exhibition (2015) was born. Possessing voluminous qualities similar to the plastic doll's head, the skull was obsessively scanned and photographed to achieve optimum light and shade, and to reveal previously unrecognised terrains. Extracting as much out of it by trawling and navigating it close up, reinterpreting it in a myriad of ways. The result is a carnivalised confection of candified decay.

In 2019, Chris followed up with what became the '*Conventicle*' exhibition. Bestowing life on inanimate objects had, unsurprisingly, become a theme. Shown at fortyfivedownstairs to great success, '*Conventicle*' was an unorthodox assemblage of Renaissance-based Victorian engravings blanketed in everyday detritus, modern ephemera and classical stencils. Responding to the overwhelming pollution of modern life, old soft drink cans, disregarded packaging and discarded motherboards were expertly re-assembled in an exciting declamatory recitation of social archaeology.

Motherboard Portal (Verde) from this show was acquired by the ACU Art Collection. The work was also featured on the cover of *Contemporary Visions: Works from the ACU Art Collection*.

Chris began constructing custom fluorescent acrylic box frames for his work. These were inspired by Mexican and Greek Orthodox domestic icons which are often festooned in fluorescent and coloured electric lights. From 2019, Chris has also produced acrylic blocks of his works, designed to catch and diffract light.

His 2022 show, '*Sacellum*', was an infected confection of the sacred and technology. A melancholic wink at consumerism and spirituality – a dialogue between a certain past and an uncertain future.

In 2022, Chris was invited to produce work for the iconic *Bakehouse Art Project* in Hoddle St. His has also appeared in numerous group shows.

Chris was shortlisted in the Geelong Acquisitive Print Awards in 2021 and 2023. In 2023, *Served Bold* was awarded the prestigious *Ursula Hoff Institute Award* and the work was acquired by Geelong Gallery.

His was shortlisted for the Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize 2023, and the Banyule Award for Works on Paper in 2019, 2021 and 2023. His work *White Noise* was joint winner of the Banyule Peoples' Choice Award 2023.

In April 2024, Chris showed a highly successful exhibition '*Motherboard*' at fortyfivedownstairs. This was followed in November by a pop-up show, '*Sideshow*', at Storehouse St Kilda.

In 2025, *White Noise* was included in '*Burning Inside*', a print exchange folio and exhibition project curated and acquired by Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.