CHRIS ORR

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chris Orr is an artist of European and Aboriginal descent living in St Kilda in Melbourne/Naarm on Bunurong and Wurundjeri Country.

Chris produces digital printed art that explores the intersection of technology and tradition. His current practice dissects the very hardware that powers and dominates our lives – computer motherboards. By physically deconstructing these machines and scanning their micro components at ultra-high resolution, Chris reimagines their intricate structures as mosaic patterns, tribal in form and deeply symbolic in presence.

These patterns are then layered over antique engravings, creating a kind of visual terraforming – a cartographic intervention that overlays the past with the circuitry of the present. In this fusion, the once-static figures and landscapes of old engravings are reanimated. The rhythmic pulse of motherboard fragments generates a new kind of life – a swelling synergy that imbues the image with energy, movement, and narrative.

What emerges is a patterned scape – a hybrid visual language where memory, machine, and myth converge.

EDUCATION

1985–6 Art & Design, Prahran Institute

1984–5 Graphic Design, Swinburne University

EMPLOYMENT

1996–2018 Creative Director, Beige

2014–present Artist

PUBLISHED WRITING

1999 'My Jewel Encrusted Fists' (short story) in *Mardi Gras! True stories*, edited by Richard Wherrett, Penguin Books

1994-6 'Miss Information' (fortnightly column), *Melbourne Star Observor*

MAJOR ACQUISITIONS

2023 *Served Bold*, Geelong Gallery

2020 *Motherboard Portal (Verde)*, ACU Art Collection, Melbourne
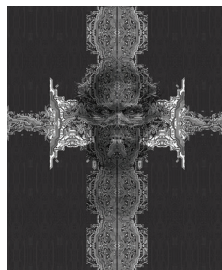
AWARDS

2023 Ursula Hoff Institute Award, Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Awards, for *Served Bold*

66 The winning work for the 2023 Ursula Hoff Institute Award, Christopher Orr's *Served Bold* 2023, is an exceptionally sophisticated and captivating digital print, which was, for the three judges, utterly arresting. It is a work that cleverly combines imagery from historical engravings with the intricate circuitry of a computer motherboard and it speaks to the prominence of technology in the 21st century and the power it exerts over every aspect of contemporary life. 99

2023 Peoples' Choice Award (joint), Banyule Award for Works on Paper, for *White Noise*

SHORTLISTS

2021 *Gethsemane Binary*, Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize, Castlemaine Art Museum

2021 *Miss Information*, Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Awards

2021 *Gethsemane (Garden of Tears)*, Banyule Award for Works on Paper, Art Gallery 275, Ivanhoe

2019 *Motherboard (Calefaction)*, Banyule Award for Works on Paper, Art Gallery 275, Ivanhoe

EXHIBITIONS

2024 Motherboard, fortyfivedownstairs

2022 Sacellum, fortyfivedownstairs

2019 Conventicle, fortyfivedownstairs

2015 Bone Idol, fortyfivedownstairs

POP UPS

2024 Sideshow, Storehouse St Kilda

2022 Sacellum Deux, Arts Eleven @ Mario's, Brunswick St, Fitzroy

GROUP SHOWS

2021 10 Artists in 10 Weeks

2020 Here (online), fortyfivedownstairs

2019–22 Linden Postcard Show, St Kilda

INVITATIONALS

2022 Bakehouse Art Project Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

MEDIA COVERAGE

2025 'Chris Orr', *Bent TV* (interview by David Hunt)

2023 '*Motherboard Portal (Verde)*', essay by Stephen A Russell, in *Contemporary Visions: Works from the ACU Art Collection* (artwork used for cover image)

2023 'Chris Orr', *Word for Word*, Joy FM (interview by Lisa Daniel)

2023 'Chris Orr – *Gethsemane Binary*', *Still Life with Pansy*, Main FM (review)

2022 'Chris Orr, The Jewell of Art', *The Art Hunter TV*, Ep 23 (interview by David Hunt)

2020 'Divine intervention keeps circuits flowing', *The Age*, 22 June (interview by Stephen A Russell)

2019 Arts pick of the week, *The Age Spectrum Magazine*, 25 May

2015 Arts Shortlist, *The Age*, 12 June