

CHRIS ORR

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Chris Orr is of European and First Nations descent living 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.

This ongoing fascination with motherboards arrives at a potent juncture in the evolution of art, when AI is cannibalising it. This creates a paradox: 'To make my art, I need to destroy the machinery I use to make my art.'

ACQUISITIONS

2023 *Served Bold*, Geelong Gallery

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

AWARDS

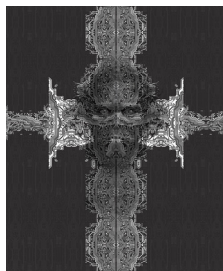
2023 Ursula Hoff Institute Award,
Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print
Awards, for *Served Bold*

“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.”

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



Served Bold



White Noise

INVITATIONALS

2022 Bakehouse Art Project, Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

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, Mario's, Brunswick St, Fitzroy

GROUP SHOWS

2021 10 Artists in 10 Weeks

2020 Here (online), fortyfivedownstairs

2019–22 Linden Postcard Show, St Kilda

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