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

EXHIBITIONS & POP UPS

2024   Sideshow, Storehouse St Kilda

Motherboard, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

2022   Sacellum Deux, Mario's Cafe, Fitzroy

Sacellum, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

2019   Conventicle, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

2015   Bone Idol, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

GROUP SHOWS

2025   Sunday Arts Magazine Art Exhibition, St Kilda

2021   10 Artists in 10 Weeks, Melbourne Style, Sth Melbourne

2020   Here (online), fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

2019–22 Linden Postcard Show, St Kilda

INVITATIONALS & CURATED SHOWS

2025   Studio Chris Orr, Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

Burning Inside, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

After Image, Geelong Gallery

2022   Bakehouse Art Project, Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

AWARDS

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

Served Bold

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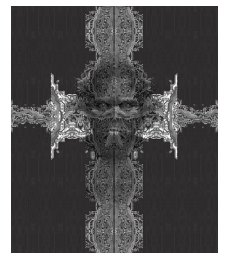
White Noise

SHORTLISTS

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

2021   *Miss Information,* Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Awards, Geelong

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

MEDIA & REVIEWS

2025   *Quadrilogue* in 'Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize', James McArdle, *On This Date in Photography*, 1 Dec

Quadrilogue in 'Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize', Christopher Heathcote, *Art Beat Melbourne*, 14 Nov

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

2023   '*Motherboard Portal (Verde)*', Stephen A Russell, in *Contemporary Visions: Works from the ACU Art Collection*

2023   'Chris Orr', *Word for Word*, Joy FM

2023   'Chris Orr – *Gethsemane Binary*', *Still Life with Pansy*, Main FM, Castlemaine

2022   'Chris Orr, The Jewell of Art', *The Art Hunter TV*, Ep 23

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

2019   Arts Pick of the Week, *The Age Spectrum Magazine*, 25 May

2015   Arts Shortlist, *The Age*, 12 June