

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.'

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

- 2026 Studio Motherboard, Bakehouse Studios, Richmond
- 2025 Burning Inside, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga
After Image, Geelong Gallery
- 2022 *Bakehouse Art Project*, Bakehouse Studios, Richmond

ACQUISITIONS

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



Served Bold

AWARDS

- 2023 *Served Bold*, Ursula Hoff Institute Award, Geelong Gallery Acquisitive Print Awards
- 2023 *White Noise*, People's Choice Award (joint), Banyule Award for Works on Paper



White Noise

SHORTLISTS

- 2025 *Quadrilogue*, 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
- 2021 *Gethsemane Binary*, Castlemaine Experimental Print Prize, Castlemaine Art Museum, Castlemaine
- 2019 *Motherboard (Calefaction)*, Banyule Award for Works on Paper, Art Gallery 275, Ivanhoe

“*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.”

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