COLLECTION 001 / 2026

ALTERED

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO

One rock. Three questions. The beginning of everything else.



THREE QUESTIONS LATER...

What started as three questions about a rock Luke found me has somehow turned into twelve original artworks, my first complete collection, and now this book.

Every time I looked into one geological process, I'd discover another three things I didn't understand. Which naturally led to more questions, more experiments, and more paint on timber.

And the more I learned, the more I wanted to know. Why does that happen? How does that work? And more importantly, can I somehow make it happen with paint?

Somewhere amongst all the questions, the timber, the experiments and an absolutely ridiculous amount of masking tape, ALTERED became my first complete collection.

I wanted somewhere to keep the whole story. Not just photographs of the finished pieces, but what interested me, what surprised me, what I learned and how each piece came about.

So here it is. What started with a rock Luke found me and three questions is now this book.

And I've still got questions.

HOW DID THIS WHOLE PAINTING THING START?

LUKE FOUND ME A ROCK AND I HAD A QUESTION.

01 *“How can it look like that on the outside but then like this on the inside?”*

02 *“How can one rock have 3 such different, perfectly imperfect layers on the inside?!?”*

03 *“I wonder if I could make paint do that on wood.”*

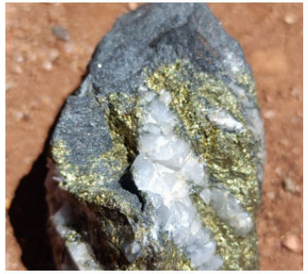
And as it does with my brain... that question led to another, and another, and another.

Somehow that turned into paint, wood, endless hours in the shed, more questions, more experimenting and more learning. And eventually, all those questions became this collection.

THE OUTSIDE



THE INSIDE



THE TIMBER ALREADY HAD A STORY

Western Australia is ridiculously rich in minerals and geological history, and the more I learn about what happens beneath the surface, the more fascinated I become.

Some of the timber I work with was saved from destruction decades ago. It's already got its own history, its knots, cracks, grain and whatever else has happened to it over the years. I don't particularly want to hide any of that. It's part of why I chose the timber in the first place.

There's something I really like about taking material that someone saved all those years ago and turning it into artwork inspired by geological processes that take millions of years.

The timber already had a story. I'm just adding another chapter.

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO / COLLECTION 001

THE ALTERED COLLECTION

Twelve original artworks on raw timber.

CRATON

RELICT

METASOMATISM

ELONGATION

INCLUSION

IRONSTONE

MINERALISATION

REPLACEMENT

SUPERGENE

HYDROTHERMAL

MIGMATITE

INTRUSION

ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026

01 CRATON

MY FIRST THOUGHT

I thought “cratons” was a typo. Turns out they’re rocks.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

What I thought was a spelling mistake turns out to be huge chunks of ancient rock that have survived for billions of years.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

A craton is an ancient, stable part of a continent. Some contain rocks more than three billion years old.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

This timber is 6 cm thick. I wanted the bands to travel across the natural shape instead of pretending I was working on a perfectly flat canvas.

Acrylic on raw timber · single sculptural original

45 × 25 × 6 cm

AUD 350 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 01 / 12

01 / CRATON



ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 01 / 12

03 RELICT

MY FIRST THOUGHT

The part that survives can tell you what was there before.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

Everything around it has changed, but that original section is still there. That's the bit that made RELICT click for me.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

A relict is a preserved remnant of an older mineral, rock, texture or structure that survives later geological change. It can leave evidence of what existed before the surrounding material was altered.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

Ninety centimetres long and only ten wide. Its narrow shape was already doing something interesting before the paint even went on.

Acrylic on timber · long, narrow original

90 × 10 cm

AUD 450 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 03 / 12

03 / RELICT





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 03 / 12

04 METASOMATISM

MY FIRST THOUGHT

I thought green stones had always been green.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

I thought the colour belonged to the rock from the start. Changing its chemistry can form completely new minerals — and those minerals can bring completely different colours with them.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Metasomatism happens when fluids move through rock and add or remove chemical elements, forming new minerals without completely melting the rock.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

Two separate pieces that need to be seen together. The dark greens and lighter bands move between the panels, but I've kept the actual break between them.

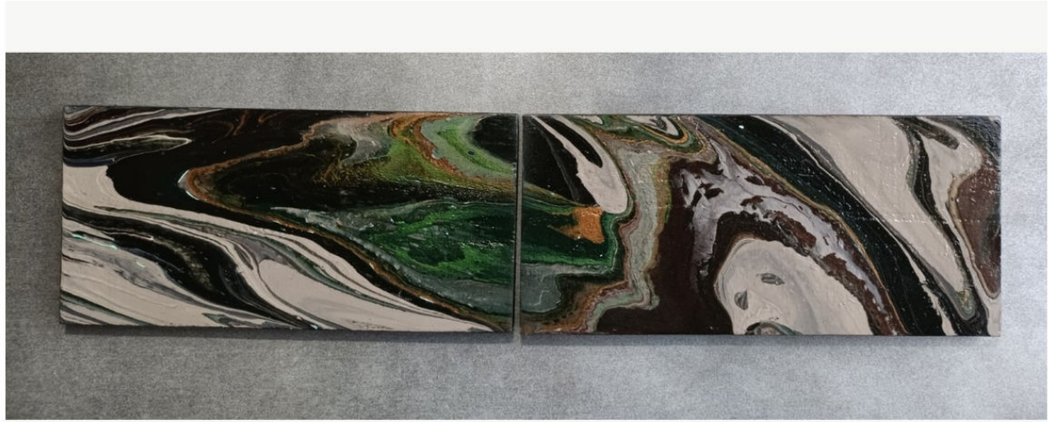
Acrylic on timber · two-panel original

31 × 15 cm per panel

AUD 395 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 04 / 12

04 / METASOMATISM





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 04 / 12

05 ELONGATION

MY FIRST THOUGHT

Rock and stretchy have never belonged together in my head before.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

What gets me is that solid rock can be stretched and reshaped without simply snapping apart.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Elongation happens when minerals or structures in rock are stretched during deformation, becoming longer in one direction as the rock changes shape.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

These two pieces aren't even the same length. I liked that the movement in the paint connected them without needing to make the timber match.

Acrylic on timber · uneven two-panel original

36 × 15 cm and 32 × 15 cm

AUD 395 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 05 / 12

05 / ELONGATION





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 05 / 12

06 INCLUSION

MY FIRST THOUGHT

Turns out some rocks come with a history lesson inside them.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

An inclusion is a fragment or earlier piece of rock trapped inside another rock. I liked the idea that something older could survive inside something new.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Inclusions are pieces of pre-existing rock or minerals enclosed within a newer rock or mineral, recording an earlier event.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

Two very narrow panels with real exposed timber interrupting the paint. What interested me was having something older visible inside something new.

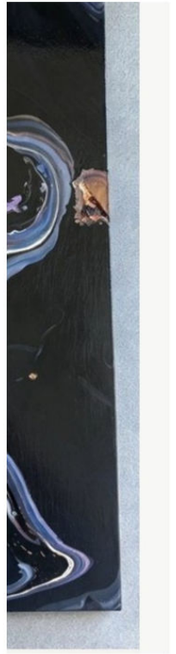
Acrylic on timber · tall vertical diptych

39.5 × 9.7 cm per panel

AUD 380 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 06 / 12

06 / INCLUSION





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 06 / 12

07 IRONSTONE

MY FIRST THOUGHT

Ironstone and understated are never going in the same sentence!

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

I knew ironstone had iron in it. Didn't realise geology was quite that literal.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Ironstone is sedimentary rock rich in iron minerals. It can form in bands, layers or nodules and often weathers to rusty brown or red tones.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

This is one of the broader surfaces in ALTERED. It gives those dark curves and quieter, stone-like areas space to spread out.

Acrylic on timber · single original

60 × 52 × 1 cm

AUD 495 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 07 / 12

07 / IRONSTONE





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 07 / 12

08 MINERALISATION

MY FIRST THOUGHT

I thought rocks were pretty much finished once they became rocks. Turns out that can be just the beginning.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

I thought minerals were just part of the rock from the beginning. I didn't realise they could arrive later, travel through fractures and leave something completely different behind.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Mineralisation occurs when minerals form or become concentrated in rock, often through mineral-rich fluids depositing them in fractures.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

This one is seven centimetres thick, with an actual natural fracture right through the timber. There are five ways I can display or hang it. I'm not claiming a timber species or an exact age when I don't know them.

Acrylic on raw timber · substantial sculptural original

43 × 19.5 × 7 cm

AUD 600 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 08 / 12

08 / MINERALISATION





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 08 / 12

09 REPLACEMENT

MY FIRST THOUGHT

It's the same shape, but now made of different minerals.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

What gets me is that the structure can still stay visible even after the original mineral has been replaced. It's the same form, but not the same material anymore.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Replacement happens when one mineral is chemically replaced by another. The original form can still remain visible, even though the material itself has changed.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

The painted bands travel across two separate panels. There's a break in the timber, but the geological idea still connects them.

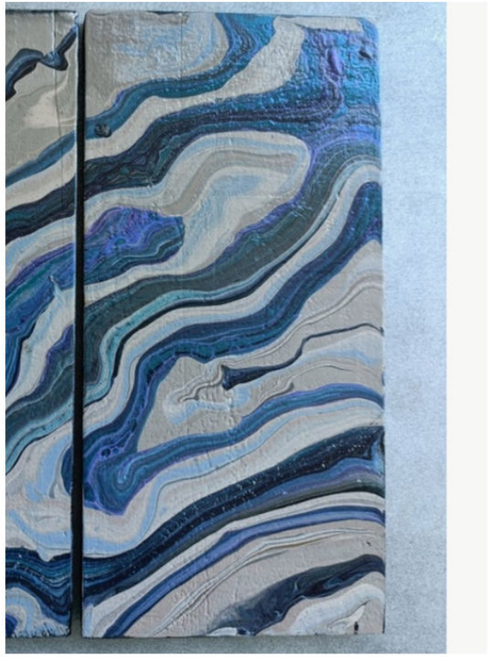
Acrylic on timber · equal two-panel original

32 × 15 cm per panel

AUD 395 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 09 / 12

09 / REPLACEMENT





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 09 / 12

10 SUPERGENE

MY FIRST THOUGHT

I knew copper went green. The blue was news.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

Surface water can change what's already there. Supergene processes can strip, concentrate or completely alter the minerals near the surface.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Supergene alteration happens close to the Earth's surface when oxygen and water change minerals in place or carry them elsewhere.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

This is the turquoise and blue piece, with gold lines and visible raw timber at the edges. The blue was part of what sent me looking further into supergene processes.

Acrylic on raw timber · single original

43 × 17 cm

AUD 550 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO ORIGINAL 10 / 12

10 / SUPERGENE





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026 ARTWORK 10 / 12

11 HYDROTHERMAL

MY FIRST THOUGHT

Did you know water can move through rock? Neither did I! But oh yes it does! I know, sounds ridiculous, but looks incredible!

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

The bit I didn't know was that hot water underground can carry dissolved minerals through cracks and openings in rock, then leave some of that material behind as conditions change.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Hydrothermal alteration happens when hot, mineral-rich fluids move through rock and react with it. They can dissolve existing minerals, transport material and deposit new minerals, changing the rock's composition and appearance.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

This large, tapered piece has a physical weight and depth that a photograph can't really convey. Fine green, gold and pale bands travel across the dark surface.

Acrylic on irregular raw timber · green-dominant tapered original

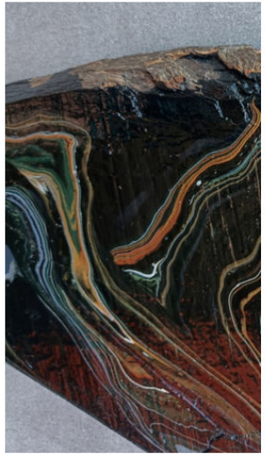
55 × 26 × approx. 4 cm (thickness unconfirmed)

AUD 595 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 11 / 12

11 / HYDROTHERMAL





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 11 / 12

12 MIGMATITE

MY FIRST THOUGHT

Rocks can partially melt. I genuinely thought melting was one of those things you could do or not do. Not both.

WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

Somehow geology has managed to make “half melted” a legitimate state. Part of the rock melts while the rest stays solid, and both end up preserved together.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Migmatite forms when rock gets hot enough to partially melt. The melted and unmelted material remain together, often forming distinct bands or patches.

MY TIMBER / THE ACTUAL ARTWORK

The exposed timber runs through the middle. I protected the raw wood during glossing, which meant putting masking tape on, taking it off, putting it back on and taking it off again.

Acrylic on raw timber · glossy painted areas, exposed unglossed wood

53 × 14 × 2 cm

AUD 450 · 27 OCT 2026

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO
ORIGINAL 12 / 12

12 / MIGMATITE





ALTERED / FIRST COLLECTION / 2026
ARTWORK 12 / 12

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO / ALTERED — BURIED

INTRUSION

50 × 60 cm / Single artwork / A$495

ONE-LINER

Solid rock really isn’t always as solid as it sounds.

CTS INTERPRETATION

I had no idea magma could push into rock that was already there. I’d always pictured solid rock as something everything else had to go around.

THE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

An intrusion forms when magma moves into existing rock underground. It cools there and becomes igneous rock inside the older surrounding material.



FULL ARTWORK



SURFACE DETAIL

AND I'VE STILL GOT QUESTIONS.

ALTERED is my first complete collection, but it isn't the end of the experimenting. It's the first time I can put these pieces next to each other and actually see the collection, instead of a pile of separate ideas.

The next work might involve bark, different timber or something I haven't even thought of yet. I'm not expecting the next collection to look the same, and I don't particularly want it to.

What I want to keep is the reason I started. I get curious about what happens to rocks, ask a pile of questions and head into the shed to see what happens when I try to make sense of it with paint and timber.

CHAOS THEORY STUDIO

Wheatbelt, Western Australia
chaostheorystudio.au@gmail.com / @chaostheorystudio.au