



Culture, Media, Economy (CME) is a research hub at the School of Media Film and Journalism at Monash University. It is a response to the current conjuncture in which new financial and business models, technologies, socio-cultural dynamics and geo-political configurations have radically transformed our understandings and practices of culture, media and economy.

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Sebastian Olma | *Art and Autonomy: Past, Present and Future*

June 20

Bus Projects, 25-31 Rokeby Street, Collingwood

Registration: <https://bit.ly/2svQh8N>

What does it mean to speak of artistic autonomy at a time when art is fully commercialized and aesthetics has become the guiding principle of economic production and policymaking? In his new book, *Art and Autonomy: Past, Present, Future*, Sebastian Olma takes a fresh look at this question by summoning three heroes of the aesthetic revolution to confront the challenges artistic practice faces today. Turning Kant into a campaigner for the Anthropocene, Schiller into a creative entrepreneur and Schelling into a political activist, he lays the groundwork for a critique that identifies the contemporary itself as contemporary art's greatest challenge. Only by taking up a struggle against the contemporary, he argues, can art reinvent its autonomy and regain its relevance to society.

Celebrating the Australian launch of *Art and Autonomy: Past, Present, Future*, Bus Projects Melbourne hosts a conversation between the author and Monash Professor of Communications and Cultural Economy, Justin O'Connor. At the same time as art became contemporary, culture increasingly sought to become an economy, and the results are all around us. What if, now, culture sought not an escape from the economic but to hold it to account?

Sebastian Olma is a professor of autonomy in art, design and technology at Avans University of Applied Sciences in Breda and Den Bosch, The Netherlands. Alongside his academic work, he has advised policymakers throughout Europe on the facts and fictions of the creative economy. He lives in Amsterdam, where he edits the subcultural magazine *Amsterdam Alternative* and tries to help keep the spirit of cultural activism alive. His book *In Defence of Serendipity: For a Radical Politics of Innovation* was published in 2016.

TIME: 6pm — 7pm, June 20th.

PLACE: Bus Projects, 25-31 Rokeby St, Collingwood

MORE INFO: <https://busprojects.org.au/program/book-launch-sebastian-olma-past-present-future>