

# CHRIS GEORGE

Visual Artist & Systems Researcher · Barry, South Wales

07790 884050 · chris@liminalmind.co.uk · liminalmind.co.uk · chrisgeorge.net

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## PROFILE

Visual artist and systems researcher with 45 years of photographic practice across Britain's institutional landscape — job centres, cooperative housing, military institutions, corporate headquarters, Welsh post-industrial communities. That practice produced a single recurring observation: every institution built with genuine purpose eventually develops mechanisms to process human beings at a distance. What those mechanisms eliminate is not inefficiency. It is the friction of the particular — embodied knowledge, resistant presence, the thing that cannot be made legible without being destroyed.

Four works constitute a complete anatomy of that elimination: erasure by forgetting (Quantum Memory), by classification (The Character), by misrecognition (Transcription Error), and by foreclosure (Other Lives). Each operates at a different scale. Together they form one argument. The work requires physical presence to activate.

*"I lived inside the systems I now make visible through art. Forty-five years of fieldwork. This is not incidental biography."*

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## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Quantum Memory and the Unveiling of Being

Primary Project · 2025–2028 · Arts Council Wales R&D Application, May 2026

Port Talbot / South Wales · Touring across Welsh heritage sites

A preservation emergency. Documenting the last generation with direct lived experience of Welsh industrial extraction before biological erasure closes that window — estimated 10–15 years. Visitors interact with physical objects (coal, slate, steel, silicon) to trigger RFID-activated portrait reveals, encoded using Heidegger's Being and Time as semantic cipher. Sound design: Robin Rimbaud / Scanner (confirmed). Academic partner: George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling, University of South Wales (Prof. Emily Underwood-Lee, Dr Rachel Lock-Lewis). The RFID system is conceptualised as an anti-entropy device; 'maintenance as love' is its ethical architecture.

### Other Lives: Alternative Histories of Thatcherite Wales

Secondary Project · 2026–2027 · ACW R&D Application (September 2026 if required)

Counter-archive installation · Concept stage

A counter-archive constructing historically precise alternative biographies for five people whose possible futures were foreclosed by the economic and political conditions of Thatcherite Wales. Working in the lineage of Boltanski and Fontcuberta, the project fabricates institutional records — service documents, medical files, performance reviews, photographs — that feel found rather than made. The five subjects span Thatcherism's full Welsh impact: a death in the Falklands; industrial disease; a miner's daughter whose intelligence was absorbed into community survival; a man who left Wales for London; a Welsh-speaking rural community member caught between language and economic necessity. One subject — the Falklands biography — is the artist's own alternative history: the life that would have ended on HMS Glamorgan on 12 June 1982 had a teenage decision gone differently. Philosophical structure: Heidegger's Geworfenheit — thrownness. This is not nostalgia. It is ontological restoration.

### The Character

Tertiary Project · 2026–2027 · ACW R&D Application (September 2026 if required)

An AI model constructed on the administrative logic of Thomas Picton — Welsh colonial Governor of Trinidad — running against 1911 Welsh census data. Positioned as the structural inversion of Quantum Memory: where Quantum Memory recovers the suppressed, The Character enacts suppression. The colonial algorithm made visible.

### Transcription Error

In Development · 2027–2028

Installation investigating governance structures as biological code. How policy intent transcribes into practice, and how transcription errors cause systematic social harm. Film noir aesthetics applied to bureaucratic identity construction.

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## COLLECTIONS & AFFILIATIONS

**Public Collections:** National Portrait Gallery, London (permanent collection, four portraits).

**Professional Affiliations:** a-n The Artists Information Company (2025–present).

**Published Research:** 'Semantic Encryption as Cultural Archive' (2025); 'Liminal Code: Systems as Artistic Research' (2025); Architecture of Erasure series; Precision and Chaos corpus. Full archive: liminalmind.co.uk/papers

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## **SYSTEMS RESEARCH: 45 YEARS OF FIELDWORK**

This is not incidental work experience. Each role was sustained fieldwork inside the institutions my practice now makes visible. The sequence was not planned. It was lived.

### **Independent Practice — Visual Artist & Installation Researcher**

Liminal Mind · liminalmind.co.uk · 1980–Present (46 years)

Participatory installations investigating institutional power through systems research and photographic archive. Current focus: Quantum Memory R&D (ACW application, May 2026). Commercial practice spans Fortune 500 clients including Unilever, Veolia, ARM Holdings, Edelman, NHS. Medium-format film and digital; large-format photography; archival processing.

### **Systems Researcher — Housing & Social Infrastructure**

Valleys to Coast Housing Association, Bridgend · August 2022–Present (reducing to part-time June 2026)

Escalated complaints and antisocial behaviour casework within a Welsh housing association. Ongoing embedded fieldwork into how housing policy translates into lived experience — the gap between institutional intent and institutional practice.

Insights directly inform the Quantum Memory community engagement methodology.

### **Military Photographer — Visual & Archival Documentation**

NAAFI / British Armed Forces · 1990–1993

Documentary and archival practice in institutional context. Deployments included the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, Northern Ireland, and West Germany. Developed rigorous technical methodology and understanding of how visual documentation encodes official narratives. Foundation for subsequent archival practice.

### **Senior Sales Executive — Digital Infrastructure**

Easynet / Various ISPs & Telecoms, London · 1995–2005

Eight years designing and selling complex digital infrastructure solutions to NHS, government, and Fortune 500 corporations. Deep fieldwork into how digital systems encode institutional power. Informs the 'silicon economy' strand of Quantum Memory — the transition from industrial (coal/steel) to digital (data centres, tech infrastructure) economies.

### **Civil Servant — Bureaucratic Code**

Department of Employment / Jobcentres, London · 1981–1987

Processing benefit claims and employment services at the sharp end of Thatcher-era economic restructuring. Direct fieldwork into how policy intent transcribes into implemented practice, and how the resulting transcription errors cause systematic social harm. Primary research source for the Transcription Error installation.

### **Factory Operative — Industrial & Material Systems**

Automotive Manufacturing, West Midlands · 1980–1981

Night-shift labour in automotive manufacturing. Direct experience of industrial systems, working-class labour conditions, and material production processes. Grounds the installation practice in lived reality rather than theoretical abstraction.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **Polytechnic Diploma in Photography**

Birmingham Polytechnic (now Birmingham City University) · 1977–1980

Foundation in documentary and fine art photography. Practice preceded theory by four decades — phenomenological inquiry was underway long before Heidegger provided the vocabulary.

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## **OPEN TO**

- Commissioning and venue partnerships for Quantum Memory and associated works.
- Institutional collaboration with heritage organisations, universities, and cultural venues in Wales.
- Creative workspace and studio infrastructure conversations in South Wales.
- Corporate and editorial photography commissions (chrisgeorge.net).
- Wedding photography commissions (jazzylulu.co.uk).