

Huge demons stalking the streets, eerie sculptures and a giant flame-throwing organ: Welcome the festival of DARKNESS that is turning Tasmania into a 'twisted art playground'

- The Museum of Old and New Art's winter festival, Dark Mofo, kicked off in Hobart on Friday night
- Ten day event celebrates winter and darkness in a unique, grungy way with enormous installations across the city
- A fire organ made of flamethrowers that explodes in different rhythms was the main spectacle on the opening night
- Huge hand-carved Balinese demon statues, filled with attendee's 'worst fears' are set alight on the final night
- The red-lit 'towering semicircle of subwoofers inside an old freezer' require signed waiver forms and ear protection
- 'We're turning the entire city into a twisted art playground,' Dark Mofo creative director Leigh Carmichael said

By LILLIAN RADULOVA FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA and AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A unique and grungy festival celebrating winter and darkness has kicked off with an explosion of fire, light and deafening sound in what is normally a quiet city.

The Museum of Old and New Art's winter festival, Dark Mofo, has asked attendees to brace themselves, bring earplugs and 'get weirder' as it promises to bring Hobart to life over the 10-day-long event.

'We're turning the entire city into a twisted art playground,' Dark Mofo Creative Director Leigh Carmichael said.

A giant fire organ, equipped with flamethrowers that explode in what has been described as a 'symphony' of sounds, was the main spectacle on the opening night of the festival's third annual edition.



A fire organ, equipped with flamethrowers that explode in what has been described as a 'symphony' of sounds, was the main spectacle on the opening night of the Museum of Old and New Art's winter festival, Dark Mofo



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The Shadows Calling is an exhibition of works by Patricia Piccinini and Peter Hennessey which will be available to see during the festival



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Huge hand-carved Balinese ogoh-ogoh demons (pictured in 2013) will see a return this year before they are set alight on the final night of the event. Traditionally they are paraded through streets as a means of luring evil demons and driving them out of the community



The event asked attendees to brace themselves, bring earplugs and 'get weirder' as it promises to bring Hobart to life over 10 days

Dark Mofo brings an explosion of fire and light to Hobart



A whopping five-tonnes of gas will be used up by the impressive construction as it continues to play various rhythms for its audience over the next week and a half, according to the [ABC](#).

Meanwhile, closer to the city centre, a towering light ray, the creation of Mexican artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, pierced the clouds.

Consisting of eight skyward-facing beams, the light can mimic the heartbeat of whoever holds an electrode at its base.

It will light up the sky every night of Dark Mofo.

Huge hand-carved Balinese ogoh-ogoh demons will see a return this year before they are set alight on the final night of the event.

Attendees are encouraged to write their 'worst fears' on a piece of paper, throw it into the demons' mouths and watch them burn along with the monsters in a 'ritualistic burning to cleanse the community' of its 'collective fears'.



A mixture of art installations and live performances will be available across various locations in Hobart



This year, the Winter Feast (pictured in 2014) will occur over five nights while the festival will conclude with a naked swim on June 22 timed to coincide with the winter solstice



The red-lit Bass Bath which has been described as 'a towering semicircle of subwoofers inside a cavernous old freezer', requires attendees to sign waiver forms and heavy duty ear protection



Antony and the Johnsons (left) and The Irrepressibles (right) will be among the performers

The only festival with a 'safe word' – bananas – Dark Mofo has made its name as the dangerous festival, with some art, like the red-lit Bass Bath which has been described as 'a towering semicircle of subwoofers inside a cavernous old freezer', requiring signed waiver forms and heavy duty ear protection.

This year's art installations are spread throughout the city, with the main showground located at Macquarie Point - an abandoned industrial space used to store shipping containers which has been scattered with brightly lit food vans, bars and art for the event.

In MONA's trademark style, some event details remained under wraps until just hours before the festival opening, including the venue of Blacklist, a sold-out, adults-only, late-night dance.



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Organisers are expecting about 150,000 people to attend the 10-day schedule of events, which includes sights, sounds, a feast and a night in the forest



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The southern facade of MONA, the Museum of Old and New Art: More than 250 Australian and international artists have contributed to Dark Mofo 2015

But on Friday afternoon a YouTube clip featuring singer Kamahl revealed the location as 'the infamous venue, Budgie Smugglers', a central Hobart cafe.

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More than 250 Australian and international artists have contributed to Dark Mofo 2015, which concludes with a naked swim on June 22 timed to coincide with the winter solstice.



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Blacklist, a sold-out, adults-only, late-night dance will be held at 'the infamous venue, Budgie Smugglers', a central Hobart cafe



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Pictured: Huon Valley Mid Winter Fest in 2014: This year's he main showground is located at Macquarie Point - an abandoned industrial space used to store shipping containers which has been scattered with brightly lit food vans, bars and art for the event



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