

Museum of Old and New Art's Dark Mofo winter festival opens in Hobart

Dark Park, the festival hub near the city's waterfront, exploded into life with a fire breathing organ to mark the start of the third annual event

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📷 Bass Bath, one of the experiences at the Museum of Old and New Art's 2015 Dark Mofo winter festival in Hobart on Thursday. Photograph: Andrew Drummond/AAP

A simultaneous explosion of noise and light has marked the opening of the Museum of Old and New Art's winter festival, Dark Mofo, in Hobart.

Dark Park, the festival hub near Hobart's waterfront, came to life on Friday complete with fire breathing organ to mark the start of the third annual event.

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.

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.

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

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.

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