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Tasmania

TasWeekend: State of art

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THIS year's Dark Mofo winter festival boasts an assortment of experiences that range from conventional to downright odd, challenging the public to broaden their horizons once again.

Now in its fifth year, the Mona festival celebrates the darkest time of year, midwinter from Thursday until Wednesday, June 21, with an innovative and unusual program of events and attractions designed to lure us out of our homes at a time when we might prefer to stay in. And don't let all this talk of dead bulls and blood put you off; there is so much more to see and do beyond the gory Hermann Nitsch spectacle, including this year's family-friendly centrepiece, a spectacular laser light show that will paint the sky in a rainbow of colours for the duration of the festival. Dark Park at Macquarie Point will again be the hub of the activities in Hobart but events will also stretch across the state this year.

LASER LIGHT SHOW

This year's festival centrepiece is a spectacular laser light show that will be beamed into the sky above Hobart from Dark Park at Macquarie Point. The installation, called *iy_project*, has been created by UK artist Chris Levine, who has been working and experimenting with light-based art since the 1980s.

He believes laser light to be the purest form of light available and his own meditation practice feeds into his artwork in the forms of the sacred geometric patterns made by the lights.

As well as these giant technicolour laser beams soaring 10km into the night sky above the city, Levine will team up with spatial sound engineer Marco Perry to create an accompanying installation inside a warehouse at Dark Park.



📷 An untitled artwork by Josef Wittlich, 1955, which will be displayed at the Museum of Everything.

THE MUSEUM OF EVERYTHING

Dark Mofo marks the start of the latest major exhibition at Mona, called *The Museum of Everything*. Created by the UK's James Brett, *The Museum of Everything* is a museum with no fixed abode, travelling the world and changing exhibits with every new stop. Brett says the museum's aim is to showcase the untrained, unintentional, undiscovered and unclassifiable artists of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

"I'd always felt that art didn't touch me, it was too cerebral, all about itself, like a self-absorbed teenager," he says. "But I started looking at artwork created by people from outside that professional art sphere, stuff that was really uncomplicated, things people made in their homes and backyards simply as their way of expressing themselves, often people who don't feel they have a voice in society. And I found this kind of art kind of rectified everything I didn't like about art."

With a background in film, Brett says he is interested in storytelling, so the human story behind each selected piece is what makes it so fascinating, more than just an art object. *The Museum of Everything* will inhabit Mona for the next 10 months, until April next year, with nearly 2000 individual pieces on display in 30 individualised spaces throughout the galleries. Entry to Mona is free for Tasmanian residents.

