



DARK MOFO · 8-21 JUNE 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dark Mofo confirms Hermann Nitsch *150.Action* will proceed

Dark Mofo Creative Director Leigh Carmichael said: “We appreciate the widespread community debate that is unfolding across Tasmania.

“We respect those people currently fighting for, and against, the Hermann Nitsch *150.Action* scheduled for Dark Mofo in June.

“Hermann Nitsch is a highly regarded, internationally respected artist, who has been at the forefront of the Viennese Actionist movement for over 50 years.

“His work seeks to confront the truth of reality. It exposes reality, and it’s an intense experience of reality. It deals with the sanitation of war, horror, and slaughter. It is grounded in ancient ritual, religion, and mythology. It is about death, and sex.

“We understand why the community outrage has been so passionate.

“Dark Mofo aims to present a festival that explores the full spectrum of human emotion. We program work that enables a deeper understanding of the nature of existence. An existence that encompasses the terrible abyss, and the glorious splendour. Our greatest moments, and our deepest holes. We seek the truth.

“For those members of the public who believe that this is no more than shock art, or a publicity stunt, we urge you to look deeper.

“Ultimately, no one can justify the killing of an animal, not for food or for art. While it’s not justified, it is within the confines of the law, and each individual has the right to choose how they will live with the choices they make. We will have to live with ours. It is also true that no one has the right to impose their view onto others.

“Art sometimes has the power to influence a community, and although it would be an indirect outcome of this performance, we would consider a reduction in the consumption of meat a positive result.

“If we cancel this event, not one bull will be saved. There is currently no specific animal earmarked for slaughter for this event.

“Yes, we could select a random animal to live peacefully in a paddock for the rest of its life. This would amount to no more than a futile attempt to reduce our guilt, and in the process further suppress the truth and reality that we are seeking to understand.

“The Hermann Nitsch *150.Action* will take place as scheduled on Saturday 17 June. The artist will appear *In Conversation* the following day at Federation Concert Hall. Tickets will be available online from Friday 5 May.

“We urge all Tasmanians, both for and against this work, to show respect to each other as we discuss the ethical implications of this project.

“When Hermann Nitsch visits the state as our guest in June, the world will be watching. We hope it’s a time that will reveal many things about our society, not least of which will be our values of respect and tolerance.”

Hermann Nitsch *150.Action*, 12pm–3pm Saturday 17 June 2017 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Curated by Olivier Varenne, Michel Blancsubé, and Jarrod Rawlins. Australian exclusive. Please note: this work contains distressing imagery, nudity and strong adult themes, and is not suitable for children. Parental or guardian discretion is strongly advised. Photo ID and bag checks will be conducted at the event. Free by registration from Friday 5 May from www.darkmofo.net.au

Hermann Nitsch, *In Conversation*, 1pm Sunday 18 June 2017, Federation Concert Hall, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Photo ID and bag checks will be conducted at the event. Tickets available from Friday 5 May www.darkmofo.net.au

Optional charitable donation is encouraged to purchase mosquito nets to prevent the spread of malaria: www.nothingbutnets.net

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+ no further comment at this time +