



A challenging encounter with modern art. No. 2

MATT SMITH

HE has created the most hated piece at MONA and now punters will be able to see more than 100 artworks by the man who created the infamous *Cloaca*.

In a major coup for MONA, and a world first, Belgian artist Wim Delvoye's most controversial pieces will be displayed in the one place at the same time in a retrospective exhibition opening today.

In keeping with the rest of David Walsh's "subversive Disneyland", the new exhibition offers visitors plenty to talk about.

Tattooed pigskins, hand-carved tyres and X-ray images of copulating couples grace the new dedicated space for the controversial installation artist.

But it is five new *Cloaca* machines, which replicate the human

digestive system from start to finish, that are set to disgust, delight, fascinate and divide public opinion.

Delvoye commissioned a *Cloaca* machine to remain permanently at MONA and to date it is the museum's most despised piece.

However, MONA senior curator Nicole Durling said despite the public's disgust with the art installation, more people stop and spend time looking at the *Cloaca* than any other piece in the museum.

Delvoye said yesterday he loved the fact that people had such strong feelings about *Cloaca*.

Its final product was something everyone was intimately familiar with, he said.

"*Cloaca* is not about discrimination – it does

Everybody loves poo and everybody poos

not discriminate between the popular and smart people," he said.

"Everybody loves poo and everybody poos."

Creating the final product is not an inexpensive process,

Delvoye said.

A machine can take up to 12 months to build and cost about \$200,000.

"And we cannot make a poo for less than about 200 euros (\$264)."

Ms Durling said people would be delighted, engaged and leave with very strong opinions after visiting the exhibition.

"He is certainly a controversial figure and a little like a David Walsh of the art world.

"He is highly regarded and he is pushing boundaries about what art making and art is."

The Wim Delvoye exhibition opens today and runs until April 2.



CONFRONTING: A tattooed man

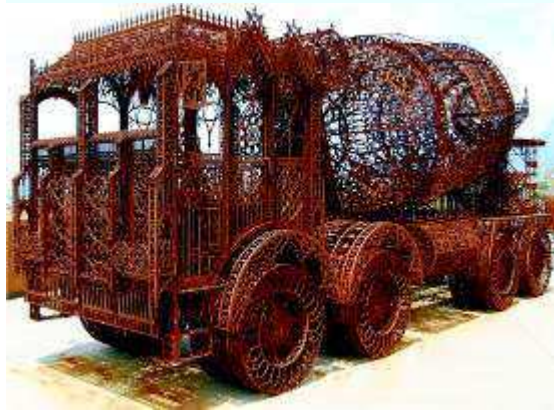


CREATION: Wim Delvoye in the room where *Cloaca* is housed.

Picture: :NIKKI DAVIS-JONES



CONTROVERSIAL: Artist Wim Delvoye in front of his work



COMPLEX: Cement Truck, which sits at the entrance of the museum.



THOUGHT-PROVOKING: A new examination of the crucifixion.



BIZARRE: Left, a work that seems designed to offend someone, a tattooed pig skin entitled Osama

TAKE YOUR PICK:
Below, one of 36 shovels to go on show at the exhibition.