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Dark Mofo's Dark Park: Watch, wander, feel, eat and drink this space

By Gregor Salmon

Arts, Culture and Entertainment

Fri 10 Jun 2016 at 11:46am



In a cavernous warehouse, 21 downlights suspended from robotic arms controlled by \$100,000 worth of computers cut through the darkness.

The lights swing in various patterns to the sound of deep bass and meditation bells.

Our Time is a large-scale art installation created for Hobart's [Dark Mofo mid-winter festival](#) by a group of UK artists known as the United Visual Artists (UVA).

The free event is a key drawcard for Dark Park, the interactive epicentre of Dark Mofo, which opens tonight with a host of installations - not to mention a couple of bars and eateries - to explore.

UVA co-founder Matthew Clark said the vastness of the space and the intrigue of the lights moved people to react in various ways - be it to get lost in contemplation under the lights or to watch from the sidelines.

"It's hard to predict how everyone behaves, particularly in a festival environment but the work is very much designed to be contemplative," he said.

"It's quite a meditative, quiet piece but at the same time it's very dramatic because of the sheer scale. It has this interesting duality of something very natural but something very synthetic."



Get a unique look at yourself in the House of Mirrors. *(Supplied)*

Another Dark park highlight is the House of Mirrors, a Dark Mofo take on the popular fairground attraction.

Created by Australians Christian Wagstaff and Keith Courtney, the House of Mirrors is a place to get comfortable or otherwise with a disorientating kaleidoscope of reflection.



Cameron Robbins' anemographs trace light in the darkness. (*Supplied*)

A few anemographs positioned out in the open at Dark Park will be doing their own form of light painting.

Using wind, atmospheric conditions and even time as the creative source, these instruments draw patterns of light.



Michaela Gleave's Fear Eats the Soul looms large over Dark Park. *(ABC News: Gregor Salmon)*

Lit up in huge red neon letters, Michaela Gleave's work makes a statement. End of story.



The Winter Feast warms the heart of winter darkness. *(Supplied: MONA/Remi Chauvin)*

While not located in Dark Park, the Winter Feast is a key part of the festival that speaks to everybody, providing the perfect antidote to the Hobart winter.

On offer here is warmth by the bucketload, food and drink by the bellyful.



Double dipping at the Dark Mofo nude swim. (*ABC News: Gregor Salmon*)

At dawn on the end of the longest night of the year, a crowd will take to the icy River Derwent without a stitch of clothing.

The Nude Solstice Swim, a defiant splash in the face of winter, will bring Dark Mofo to a close on June 21.

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