

MONA's hallucinatory new Pharos wing

MONA/Jesse Hunniford. Courtesy of MONA, Museum of Old and New Art.

Tim Stone, In pictures: the hallucinatory new Pharos wing at Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art
(<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/gallery/in-pictures-the-hallucinatory-new-pharos-wing-at-tasmania-s-museum-of-old-and-new-art>), **The Art Newspaper, 11 July 2018**

Immersive installations by artists such as James Turrell and Richard Wilson fill first major expansion of David Walsh's "adult Disneyland"

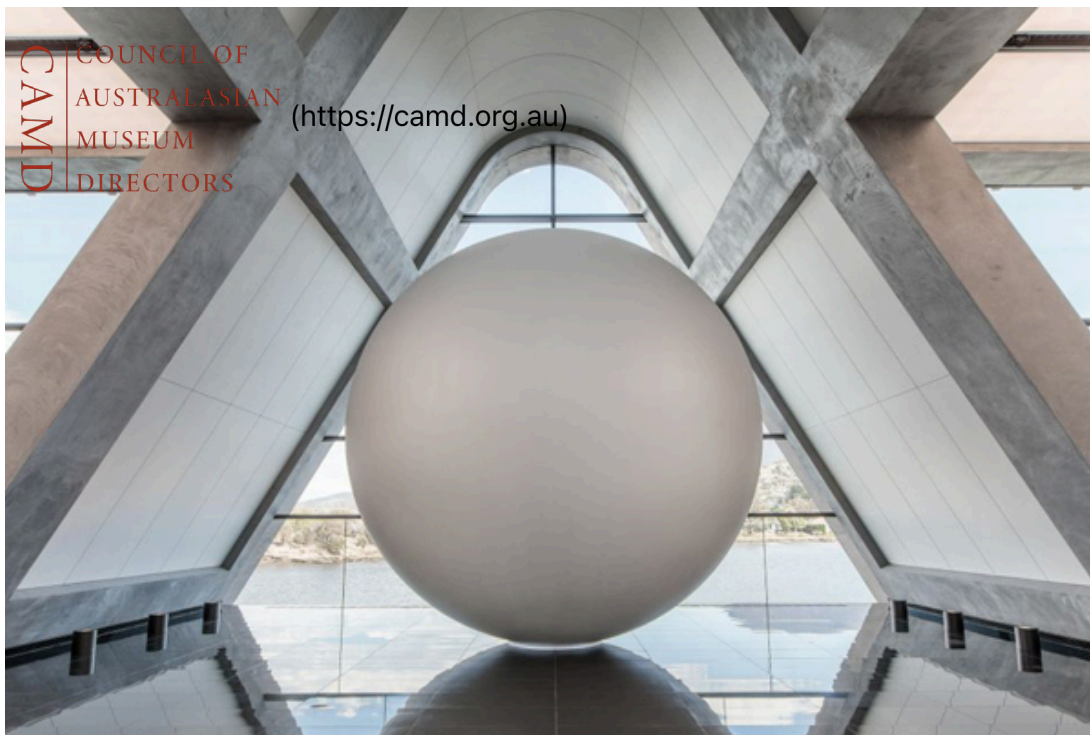
When the gambling millionaire David Walsh first opened his Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) in Hobart, Tasmania, in 2011, he called it a "subversive adult Disneyland". With Pharos, the museum's first major expansion, Walsh delivers on that promise. The Art Newspaper spoke to Jarrod Rawlins, a Mona curator, about the hallucination-inducing installations and hedonistic art experiences that fill the new 2,000 sq. m wing, which opened on Boxing Day last year. "David's ultimate goal [with Pharos] is to make sure you're not sure where you are or what's going on," he says.



The US artist Charles Ross designed Spectrum Chamber (2018) in collaboration with the museum’s architect, Nonda Katsalidis. “Ross uses light as a collaborator,” Rawlins says. The site-specific installation features large glass prisms affixed at precise angles, refracting sunlight into rainbow-like patterns that spill across the walls of the chamber. Rawlins says: “These spectrums change throughout the year as the sun moves.



Randy Polumbo’s hyper-kitsch Grotto (2017) is recessed into the walls of the museum. Silver couches rise from the centre of the room, while the polished aluminium ceiling is adorned with pixelated images on small LED screens and bouquets of hand-blown glass dildos that pulse like iridescent glow worms. “Every good museum should have a grotto—it’s a fun space to hang out,” Rawlins says.



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James Turrell's immersive light installation *Unseen Seen* (2017) offers visitors an "other-worldly experience", says Rawlins. After selecting either the "hard" or "soft" setting, visitors are ushered inside a spherical pod which unleashes a lighting sequence that exploits the shortcomings of the brain's visual system. Many people have described the experience as "life-changing", Rawlins says.

Read/view more (<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/gallery/in-pictures-the-hallucinatory-new-pharos-wing-at-tasmania-s-museum-of-old-and-new-art>)

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