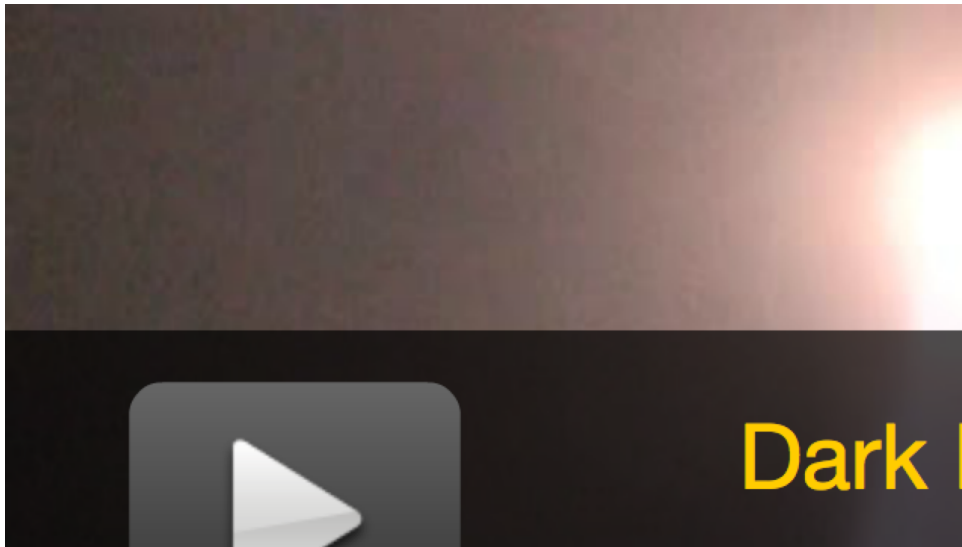




All go for MOFO

LINDA SMITH and KANE YOUNG | June 15, 2013 12:01pm

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MISTY rain and cool temperatures provided the perfect climate for the start of the Dark MOFO winter festival last night.

Drizzle danced in the beams of white light projected 15km into the sky above Hobart when Japanese artist Ryoji Ikeda fired up his *Spectra* light installation at sunset, creating a light and sound spectacular for the many hundreds who flocked to the cenotaph to see it.

Words like wonderful, amazing, beautiful and fantastic escaped from the mouths of impressed onlookers, who attended the free event rugged up in coats, beanies and scarves.

"Look at it now, it looks like it's snowing," said Melinda Morris, 27, from Victoria.

"It's wonderful ... I think the weather actually made it perfect."

Dark MOFO creative director Leigh Carmichael said the cool weather was part of the charm.

"I actually think it's quite nice," he said, standing in the drizzle alongside *Spectra*, which cost "hundreds of thousands of dollars".

"We are celebrating our weather and our city."

He hoped the installation -- which runs from sunset to sunrise every day until next Saturday -- would enchant the city, with thousands expected to visit the cenotaph in coming days.

"It's the most ambitious thing we've ever done outside of MONA," he said.

Nearby at Macquarie Wharf Shed No.1 more light installations were enjoyed at *Beam In Thine Own Eye*.

The centrepiece of this inaugural Dark MOFO festival, it features 13 immersive installations by artists from around the world.

Meanwhile the MAC2 shed next door hosted Dark MOFO's O-Night party, featuring live music by Movement, DJ Otologic, and Naysayer & Gilsun, plus artist Daniel Boyd's



Anna Poletti, 36, of Melbourne, and Samantha Arnall, 39, of Sydney, stand beneath Ryoji Ikeda's *Spectra* Tasmania. Picture: RICHARD JUPE

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100 Million Nights, a three-panel video installation set to a live score by musical duo Canyons.

Premier Lara Giddings encouraged Tasmanians to get out and enjoy Dark MOFO, whatever the weather. She said the festival was a great drawcard for tourists during winter, but also a treat for locals.

"Dark MOFO draws together a fantastic array of arts and cultural activities that are sure to warm up our nights over this year's winter solstice," Ms Giddings said.

Dark MOFO runs until next Sunday. For details, click [here](#).

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For Pat Lewis - Museum of Old and New Art Festival Of Modern Art = MONA FOMA = MOFO :)

Posted by: **Andrew Smyth of Huonville** 10:40pm Sunday 23rd June

Haven't seen any of the Dark Mofo stuff yet - hope to soon. BUT - PLEASE - will someone in the know tell me what MOFO stands for? I get MONA - Museum of New and Old Art - but - MOFO??

Posted by: **pat lewis of kingston** 04:42pm Monday 17th June

Sometimes Shadforth, it's best to stop when you're in front. In this instance though, you'd have been well advised to stop before you fell even further behind!

Posted by: **Jenny Wilkinson of Bellerive** 02:06pm Sunday 16th June

The reason I keep reading this is for the whingers comments. And geez there are some beauties here Keep it up, it brings humour to my day. Thanks

Posted by: **michael branfield of Alexandra Headland** 01:51pm Sunday 16th June

Shadforth, as you're in Bicheno and haven't seen the display, you're not qualified to comment. Wonder how the display would look atop Mt Wellington.

Posted by: **Don Ford of West Hobart** 01:31pm Sunday 16th June

My contribution last night Mike, was 7 wallaby, 1 doe (under crop protection permit) and 2 feral cats. Not only did I fill my freezer and my neighbours (on a pension) I also rid 3 non native animals from existence. No doubt not a great as yours or others standing about contemplating your naval and getting some "joy from a display". What about you, what did you do for the enviroment, next door neighbour etc?

Posted by: **Shadforth Jones of Bicheno** 12:04pm Sunday 16th June

@Shadforth Jones. While you contemplate your first "Chai Latte and Tofu" think about this. All the people who got some joy from the display aren't interested in whether this is art or not. It was just a great experience they will remember. And your contribution is.....?

Posted by: **mike basil of hobart** 09:07am Sunday 16th June

If you lived within earshot of the installation, Hobart as its permanent home would be last thing you'd want. Maybe I'm an uneducated bogan with no appreciation for fine art but the incessant drone accompanying the show is the aural equivalent of water boarding. At 4am after almost 12 hours the novelty starts to wear very thin. I for one will be glad to hear the back of it next Sunday so I can again get a decent night's sleep. A pity, as it puts such a sour note on an otherwise stunning display

Posted by: **Ivan Riley of Glebe** 09:25pm Saturday 15th June

Thankyou MoFo, I have now discovered that if I shine my hunting spotlight up in the sky I instantly become an artist. I guess I will have to try a Chai Latte and Tofu now, how sad.

Posted by: **Shadforth Jones of Bicheno** 07:41pm Saturday 15th June

Despite the cloud I can see the light display from my house. It is fantastic. It is wonderful to see something so positive with all the doom and gloom bwing shoved down out throats of late. I think of it as 'hope' and it should be a positive for everyone, whether with or without a home.

Posted by: **Belinda Crisp of Hobart** 07:05pm Saturday 15th June

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