

Tasmania's Dark Mofo 2015 under way

A simultaneous explosion of noise and light has marked the opening of the Museum of Old and New Art's winter festival, Dark Mofo, in Hobart.

Dark Park, the festival hub near Hobart's waterfront, came to life on Friday complete with fire breathing organ to mark the start of the third annual event.

And from closer to the city centre, a towering light ray, the creation of Mexican artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, pierced the clouds.

Consisting of eight skyward-facing beams, the light can mimic the heartbeat of whoever holds an electrode at its base.

It will light up the sky every night of Dark Mofo.

In MONA's trademark style, some event details remained under wraps until just hours before the festival opening, including the venue of Blacklist, a sold-out, adults-only, late-night dance.

But on Friday afternoon a YouTube clip featuring singer Kamahl revealed the location as "the infamous venue, Budgie Smugglers", a central Hobart cafe.

Organisers are expecting about 150,000 people to attend the 10-day schedule of events, which includes sights, sounds, a feast and a night in the forest.

More than 250 Australian and international artists have contributed to Dark Mofo 2015, which concludes with a naked swim on June 22 timed to coincide with the winter solstice.

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