



DARK MOFO · 8-21 JUNE 2017

Controversy surrounding Hermann Nitsch work for Dark Mofo 2017

Dark Mofo has released the following statement in relation to the controversy surrounding the Hermann Nitsch performance planned for this June in Hobart.

Dark Mofo Creative Director Leigh Carmichael said: “Firstly, and most importantly, there will not be a live animal slaughtered as part of any Dark Mofo performance.

“The Hermann Nitsch work in question uses meat, fish, fruit and blood, live performers and an orchestra as part of the performance. The animal to be used is specifically on the market for slaughter. The carcass will be sourced locally, and the animal will be killed humanely, adhering to Australian standards.

“It is the artist’s intention that the meat be eaten after the event, and we are working through addressing the health and safety regulations to achieve this outcome.

“Due to the difficult nature and themes of the work, entry to the three-hour performance will be unsuitable for people aged under 18 years.

“Dark Mofo has been exploring ancient ritual and ceremony since its inception in 2013. Hermann Nitsch is a highly regarded international artist who has been presenting variations of this work for five decades, and we believe the work is as relevant today as it was when it was first performed in Vienna in 1962.

“We understand that his work will be confronting and difficult, but we will not shy away from presenting work that challenges us to consider the ethical implications of our actions both today, and in the past.”

Mona owner David Walsh has written a statement [on the Mona website](#): “In my opinion, people consume meat because they like it, and they consume art because they like it. When art (even accidentally) makes explicit what eating meat entails (slaughter, pain, blood, guts) they don't like it...”

“If Nitsch's performance is wrong (and I've been unable to find anything but moral equivalence arguments to suggest that it might be ok), get out there and stop it. It won't be a disaster for Tassie, since it'll just generate a few headlines and a bunch of Facebook discussion.

“But stopping Nitsch won't stop me doing the sort of self-serving, status-enhancing, biologically-bound good that I do through Mona. You should be protesting that, too. And you also should have a crack at getting your own 'house in order' (as the Bible says). You should, of course, stop eating meat, and rapacious crops, and you should stop doing anything that has cost (economic, social or environmental). And you should take all the cash you squander and spend it buying mosquito nets, or some other efficient life-saving interventions.

“For, as the Bible also says, 'why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?’”

Read David Walsh's full statement: <https://mona.net.au/blog/2017/04/rising-tide>

150.Action

Hermann Nitsch

[150.Action by Hermann Nitsch](#) is curated by Olivier Varenne, Michel Blancsubé, and Jarrod Rawlins, and is presented and funded by the Museum of Old and New Art for Dark Mofo 2017.

Australian exclusive for Dark Mofo 2017

Performance: Saturday 17 June, 12–3pm

Installation: Saturday 17 + Sunday 18 June, 5–10pm

Dark Park, Macquarie Point, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

Free entry <https://darkmofo.net.au/program/hermann-nitsch-150action/>

Curated by Olivier Varenne, Michel Blancsubé, and Jarrod Rawlins, and presented by the Museum of Old and New Art for Dark Mofo 2017.

Please note: this work contains distressing imagery, nudity and strong adult themes, and is not suitable for children. Parental discretion is strongly advised.

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