Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Silence falls on TCotA students during this year’s Dark Mofo

Silence will take centre stage this month as University of Tasmania Arts’ students take part in MONA's midwinter festival, Dark Mofo.

The Tasmanian College of the Arts (TCotA) is again participating in the award-winning festival with its Centre for the Arts campus in Hunter Street coming to life with *Panopticon*.

“Being supported to participate in one of Australia’s most esteemed cultural events is such an invaluable, professional learning opportunity for our students,” John Vella, TCotA Head of Art, said.

“Our *Panopticon* students (from first-year undergraduate to PhD) will experience ‘live’ project design, development and delivery.”

“Last year, over 40,000 people visited the Centre for the Arts over the 10 days of Dark Mofo; it’s a unique student experience.”

*Panopticon* will feature 25 individual installations by music, art and theatre students, each with external-facing windows on the Centre’s Hunter Street building.

Each ‘installation, or cell, will showcase a work created by current TCotA students interpreting the DARK MOFO 2017 theme, *Silence*.

A ‘live’ body must be part of each exhibit at all times during opening hours.

*Panopticon* will be ‘live’ from 5-10pm from June 9-11; 15-18.

The Centre for the Arts will also host a series of talks, *On Silence*, at the Dechaineux Theatre.

This year’s festival theme will be seen through the lens of politics, science and art.
Each session will be live streamed and presented by event partners Dark Mofo and ABC, with Breakfast Show presenter Ryk Goddard facilitating the talks.

On Silence talks include:
- STEALTH (June 9, 1pm). Speakers include Saul Eslake, Dr Alysia Bennett and the Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie.
- VOID (June 10, 1pm). Speakers include Chris Levine, Rainer Jozeps and Dr Lucia McCallum.
- CENSORSHIP (June 16, 1pm) Speakers include Mike Parr, Sean Dockray and Greg Barns.

For the first time this year, TCotA has created a new unit, Encountering the Event, which aligns with the festival and offers an experiential learning experience.

The fully online unit allows students to creatively immerse themselves in Dark Mofo, exploring its themes, concepts and artistic forms.

For more information on TCotA’s events during Dark Mofo, including live streaming details, visit www.utas.edu.au/panopticon

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