

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Next Denison Debate: *What does MONA mean?*

Tasmania's long-awaited Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) opened its spectacular doors in late January this year.

David Walsh, the gambler and philanthropist behind the \$180 million venture, famously has invited comment.

Cultural critics have been divided – some love it, others loathe it.

Meanwhile, more than 100,000 punters have voted with their feet, beating a steady path to Berriedale. So what's the verdict?

What does MONA mean? is the topic of the next Denison Debate of 2011, presented by the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at UTAS.

This Denison Debate features Dr Natasha Cica, Director of the Inglis Clark Centre, in conversation with five guest speakers:

- Associate Professor John Armstrong, Philosopher-in-Residence at Melbourne Business School.
- Jo Duffy, the new Artistic Director of Tasmania's Ten Days on the Island festival.
- Professor Noel Frankham, Head of the Tasmanian School of Art at UTAS.
- Tim Penny, architect.
- Diane Caney, author.

Dr Cica said MONA is a stand-out initiative and David Walsh's timing is "impeccable".

"MONA has the potential to be a game-changer in Tasmania – culturally, economically and socially. MONA is not just about art," Dr Cica said.

"It's an invitation to more Tasmanians to be bolder and more visionary, to be more reflective thinkers and more pro-active doers. So we need to begin exploring what MONA might mean."

The event is free and all are welcome to attend. It will be held on **Monday 4 April from 6 – 7:30 pm in the Dechaineaux Lecture Theatre at the Tasmanian School of Art, Hunter Street, Hobart.**

The Denison Debate series is a forum designed to promote open and vibrant Tasmanian conversations about ideas and values in our society.

Information Released by:

Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 Mobile: 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au