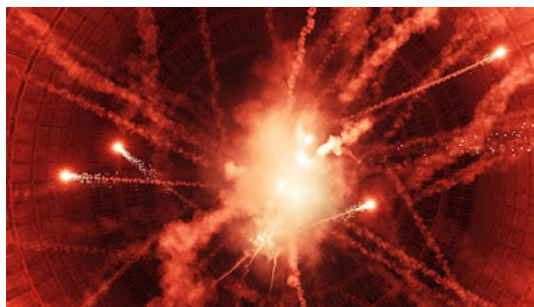


Hard Core: Mona unveils a new headliner



French-Swiss artist Julian Charrière has been chosen as the next headliner at the Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) in Hobart.

Charrière will present his first solo exhibition in Australia in Tasmania from June 6, 2026, to March 29, 2027.

Opening in time for mid-winter festival Dark Mofo (June 11-22), his *Hard Core* will feature an assemblage of artworks from sculpture and installation to film and photography that bridge nature, science, history, industry and myth.

"Ideas burst from Julian Charrière (below) like licks from an over-friendly dog," says Mona's founder, David Walsh.

"Sometimes it's a lot - attending one of Julian's exhibitions can be overwhelming. But Julian isn't a meddler. His ideas are deep and incisive, the sort of ideas that expose the soft white underbelly of reality."



Hard Core will transform Mona's touring galleries and spill out into the Void and newly excavated additions to the museum.

It will feature sculptures made of coal, lava, molten computers, onyx and obsidian.

Cored samples taken from glacial erratic boulders are repaired with steel, aluminium, brass and silver. A lump of stromatolite rock, hundreds of millions of years old, is slowly polished to a perfect sphere between lapidary rock grinders.

There are plants preserved cryogenically, snails slurping the calcium carbonate from marble statues, and a vending machine full of fossilised ammonites.

So, all very Mona.

In photographs and video installations, Charrière pits human action against ideas of nature's grandeur and vulnerability.

With *Breathe*, a permanent installation commissioned especially for Mona and built into the museum's foundations, Charrière releases oxygen molecules that have been trapped inside banded iron ore formations since the Great Oxidation Event some 2.4 billion years ago.

Visitors are invited to inhale this ancient air, which has been lodged in rock over the years,

Mona's director for curatorial affairs, Jarrod Rawlins, said: 'We like beautiful adventures, physically, emotionally and philosophically, and *Breathe* delivers that from every angle.'

Berlin-based Charrière has exhibited widely, but this is his first solo exhibition in Oceania.

'What's special about this show is how it coalesces distinct works into a single geological body, compressing planetary timescales into a shared, stratigraphic architecture and encounter,' the artist says.

" Here, Mona acts as both figurative and literal bedrock - a boundary-pushing museum which, carved from sandstone, situates human civilization within a far older story; a story of stone and bone.

'Tasmania, too, is integral to the temporal dissonance of *Hard Core*: a primeval, almost Gondwanan place, where exhibiting feels less like placing works in a museum and more like returning them to the planetary condition to which they already belong.'

A full-colour exhibition catalogue including installation photography will be published later this year.

* Charrière has exhibited at many of the world's major art institutions, including solo shows at Museum Tinguely in Switzerland, Palais de Tokyo in France, and SFMoMA in the US.

Posted by [Winsor Dobbin](#)