

## Detached Unveils Amazing 117m Art Tower Proposal for Hobart

BY NICHOLAS FORREST | JUNE 15, 2015



Tasmania's non-profit Detached Cultural Organisation has announced the first concept to be presented to the public as part of the Detached cultural precinct development in the old Mercury building in Hobart, Tasmania. The proposed project, backed by MONA founder David Walsh, is an innovative 117-metre Art Tower that will provide a bold new platform for contemporary art, a connection point for public participation, and will also have strong links to population health and scientific research.

"Detached Art Tower is a powerful symbol of creativity, and a reflection of the people that live in this city. It will provide Hobart and Tasmania with a new cultural icon and attract domestic and international visitation. There is a groundswell of cultural activity in and around Hobart, and this is part of the next wave," said Leigh Carmichael, Detached Project Director.

The design of the Detached Art Tower is a collaboration between architect Robert Morris-Nunn and structural-engineer Jim Gandy. According to Detached, it will feature a central lifting core that will hydraulically raise and stack each level of prefabricated steel, creating a unique vertical assembly without the use of a crane. The tower will also celebrate Hobart and its natural landscape, offering visitors breathtaking panoramic views as they ascend and descend the transparent structure.

Project Architect Robert Morris-Nunn said: “The 117-metre Art Tower is a semi-transparent steel structure with a diameter of six metres and a double helix set of stairs. The tower will be skinned in a fine mesh of warm-white LED lights. The tower has been designed around the challenge and experience of climbing up and down its 1300 plus individual steps - 650 ascending and 650 descending -making physical exertion an integral part of the experience.”

The Detached Art Tower will also host a changing collection of works commissioned from local and international artists. Mexican-Canadian electronic artist [Rafael Lozano-Hemmer](#) (/artists/217478-rafael-lozano-hemmer) was brought into the team to provide a leading role in the development of the project and has prepared a comprehensive plan for interactive audio-visual technologies that can make the tower a reprogrammable platform for artists working with sound, light and data, according to Detached.

Under the name Biometric Abstraction, Lozano-Hemmer will develop three pieces for the tower when it opens to the public in June 2017. [Rafael Lozano-Hemmer](#) (/artists/217478-rafael-lozano-hemmer) said: “As with my previous works, Biometric Abstraction relies on public participation to create unique, personalized experiences. The voices, movements and vital signs of visitors will provide the content of the piece itself, creating a connective experience between people and the city.”

