

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011

**BURNT OFFERINGS:** The *In Silence* installation by Chiharu Shiota.

Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE

MONA maintains its magic

MATT SMITH

LARGE numbers of people are still visiting MONA with curators confident more than 250,000 art lovers will have toured the remarkable facility when it celebrates its first anniversary.

About 5600 people visited the museum at the weekend while, last weekend, 4500 people turned out on Saturday and 4200 on Sunday.

MONA research curator Delia Nicholls said



the museum had already created a lasting impression with visitors.

"People are starting to say 'I have been two or three times now and I am planning to go back' so there is a sense that

people are building it into their life a bit," Ms Nicholls said.

She said those who had visited MONA were relaxed and happy.

"It is not the quiet, slightly anxious setting

BIG HIT: MONA curator Olivier Varenne, left, Detached director Penny Clive and Detached curator Craig Judd.

you often get in a museum where people walk around and try to control children because they don't want them to make noise," she said.

The curator of Detached, Craig Judd, said the installation by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota, *In Silence*, had been a big hit.

The installation started with the burning of a grand piano in Campbell St which is now displayed among a spider web formation made from 146km of wool.