

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Technology has reached Art Basel

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Image taken from <http://www.hek.ch/en/program/> Photo: Kate Russel.

As technology conventions happen all around the world, all year round, art conventions happen too. But Art Basel stands out for being very selective and for being the hub of anyone who collects, sells or just loves art. As a convention in which art is mostly sold, the most innovative and ground breaking pieces of non-traditional art might not always make the cut but go to other kinds of exhibitions. With that in mind, we are happy to announce that Mexican electronic-artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is making his debut in Basel this summer. His work focused in technology and performance-art has been displayed in famed museums such as the Guggenheim as well as it has been in the Mexican pavilion for the Venice biennale in 2007. Just as he has had works placed in non-traditional places such as the Park Ave tunnel in New York City.

Bringing some of his most acclaimed work to Basel, there is sure to be a great stirr concerning his pieces. An example might be Pulse Room (2006) a piece that consists of a participant touching a pulse sensor and activating hundreds of lightbulbs to the rythm of their own heart beat. The artist creates a beautiful visual representation of what gives life to each and every one of us, while at the same time it is our part to give life to his work.

Lozano-Hemmer bases his work on having people interact through art and technology. With this, Basel 2016 is giving the opportunity for you to not only look and buy work, but for you to become a part of it.

Bio (from web-page <http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/bio.php>)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer was born in Mexico City in 1967. In 1989 he received a B.Sc. in Physical Chemistry from Concordia University in Montréal, Canada.

Electronic artist, develops interactive installations that are at the intersection of architecture and performance art. His main interest is in creating platforms for public participation, by perverting technologies such as robotics, computerized surveillance or telematic networks. Inspired by phantasmagoria, carnival and animatronics, his light and shadow works are “antimonuments for alien agency”.

His large-scale interactive installations have been commissioned for events such as the Millennium Celebrations in Mexico City (1999), the Cultural Capital of Europe in Rotterdam (2001), the UN World Summit of Cities in Lyon (2003), the opening of the YCAM Center in Japan (2003), the Expansion of the European Union in Dublin (2004), the memorial for the Tlatelolco Student Massacre in Mexico City (2008), the Winter Olympics in Vancouver (2010), and the pre-opening exhibition of the Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi (2015).

Recently the subject of solo exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the MUAC Museum in Mexico City, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, he was the first artist to officially represent Mexico at the Venice Biennale with a solo exhibition at Palazzo Soranzo Van Axel in 2007. He has also shown at Art Biennials and Triennials in Havana, Istanbul, Kochi, Liverpool, Montréal, Moscow, New Orleans, Seville, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore and Sydney. Collections holding his work include the MoMA in New York, Tate in London, AGO in Toronto, CIFO in Miami, Jumex in Mexico City, DAROS in Zurich, Borusan Contemporary in Istanbul, MUAC in Mexico City, 21st Century Museum of Art in Kanazawa, MAG in Manchester, MUSAC in Leon, MONA in Hobart, ZKM in Karlsruhe, MAC in Montréal and SAM in Singapore, among others.

He has received two BAFTA British Academy Awards for Interactive Art in London, a Golden Nica at the Prix Ars Electronica in Austria, “Artist of the year” Rave Award from Wired Magazine, a Rockefeller fellowship, the Trophée des Lumières in Lyon, an International Bauhaus Award in Dessau, and the Governor General’s Award in Canada. He has lectured at Goldsmiths college, the Bartlett school, Princeton, Harvard, UC Berkeley, Cooper Union, USC, MIT MediaLab, Guggenheim Museum, LA MOCA, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Cornell, UPenn, SCAD, Danish Architecture Centre, CCA in Montreal, ICA in London and the Art Institute of Chicago.