

bitforms gallery
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for immediate release

Venice and Basel debut new art installations by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

This Summer offers two opportunities in Europe to experience the interactive media installations of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, the Mexican-Canadian artist renowned for large scale public artworks:

June 10 - Nov 17, 2007. Venice

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer represents Mexico in the 52nd Biennale di Venezia

June 13 - 17, 2007. Basel

ArtBasel Unlimited displays Lozano-Hemmer's *Homographies* for the first time in Europe, after a debut last year at the 2006 Sydney Biennale

About the 52nd Biennale di Venezia:

Mexico presents its first official national representation at the 52nd International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, on June 10 through November 21, 2007. The pavilion will be located in the historic Soranzo Van Axel Palace, a 15th-century landmark in the late Gothic style situated right beside the *Chiesa dei Miracoli* in the vicinity of the Rialto bridge.

The pavilion will host a solo show by artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer titled *Some Things Happen More Often Than All of The Time*, comprised of 6 artworks, including a new piece produced specifically for the pavilion. The show is curated by Príamo Lozada and Bárbara Perea. The title of the exhibition refers to the paradoxical phenomenon found in certain scientific fields, such as quantum physics, where prediction and uncertainty models have proven the existence of behaviours that happen more often than one hundred percent of the time. The show will be accompanied by a bilingual catalogue published in English and Spanish by Turner Books with texts by the curators, philosopher Manuel de Landa, curator Barbara London, critic Cuauhtémoc Medina, historian Victor Stoichita and an interview of the artist by critic José Luis Barrios.

About ArtBasel Unlimited:

bitforms gallery, in partnership with Galeria OMR and Galerie Guy Bartschi, presents the European debut of *Homographies* at ArtBasel Unlimited. *Homographies* is an interactive installation featuring 144 robotic fluorescent light fixtures controlled by 7 computerized surveillance systems. As people walk under the piece, the light tubes rotate to create labyrinthine patterns of light that are "paths" or "corridors" between them. In *Homographies* the "vanishing point" is not architectural, but rather connective, i.e. it is determined by who is there at any given time and varies accordingly. This gives a reconfigurable light-space that is based on flow, on motion, on lines of sight, -an intended contrast to the modernist grid that currently organizes the court.

About Rafael Lozano-Hemmer:

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (b. 1967, Mexico City) works in electronic media to produce interactive installations combining the languages of architecture and performance. His work is based on the appropriation and transformation of technologies such as robotics, surveillance and telematic networks to create platforms for audience participation and interactivity. His large-scale light and shadow installations are inspired by animatronics, carnivals and phantasmagoria, situating the spectator as a fundamental component to 'complete' the work.

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Lozano-Hemmer's work in kinetic sculpture, installation, video and photography has been shown in over thirty countries, including the Biennials of Sydney (Australia), Shanghai (China), Liverpool (United Kingdom), Istanbul (Turkey) and Havana (Cuba). His work is part of important private and public art collections such as those of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, La Colección Jumex in Mexico City, Fundación Cisneros Fontanals in Miami and the Daros Latin America Collection in Zürich.

His public art installations have been presented at events such as the Millenium Celebrations in Mexico City (1999), the Cultural Capital of Europe in Rotterdam (2001) the opening of the Centro Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo ARTIUM (2002), the United Nations' World Summit of Cities in Lyon (2003), the opening of the Yamaguchi Center of Art and Media in Japan (2003), and the Expansion of the European Union in Dublin (2004). His interactive portrait-based work *Under Scan*, commissioned by the East Midlands region in England, will be shown outside of the United Kingdom for the first time at the Mexican pavilion in Venice.

At the Prix Ars Electronica in Austria, his work has received a Golden Nica, a distinction and two honourable mentions. He has also been awarded two BAFTA British Academy Awards for Interactive Art in London, a distinction at the SFMOMA Webby Awards in San Francisco, 'Artist of the year' at Wired Magazine's Rave Awards, a Rockefeller fellowship, a Langlois Foundation Grant, the Trophée des Lumières in Lyon and an International Bauhaus Award in Dessau, Germany, among numerous other awards and distinctions.

Coinciding with the 52nd Biennale di Venezia, and Art Basel Unlimited, Lozano-Hemmer's work will also be in the exhibition *Automatic Update* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, opening June 25. Also in New York, Lozano-Hemmer will be part of a group exhibit at bitforms gallery from May 25-July 28.

Mexican Pavilion:

Palazzo Soranzo Van Axel, beside the Chiesa dei Miracoli
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