

Press release

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer
Subsculptures

Exhibition from 5th November 2005 to 14th January 2006
Opening on 5th November from 18pm

The Guy Bärtschi Gallery was pleased to present for the first time the work of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer from November 5, 2005 to January 14, 2006. The exhibition "Subsculptures" was held in the "Gallery Space" as well as in the "Project Space" and on this occasion, a catalogue was published, including a dialogue between José Luis Barrios and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer during a teleconference organized on April 20, 2005 by the Sala de Arte Público Siquieros, in Mexico City.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer was born in Mexico City in 1967. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science (Physics-Chemistry) from Concordia University in Montreal, he quickly developed a practice in electronic arts.

His name and Lozano-Hemmer's practice are now associated with the concept of "relational architecture". He creates social experiences where performances and encounters are at the rendezvous by transforming the interpretation of urban architecture through the intervention of technology. In his view, the occupation of a public space requires an active participation that promotes encounters. In Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's work, without an audience, there is no work.

Working in electronic art, he deploys interactive installations of vast dimensions within public spaces, preferably using new technologies and tailor-made hardware interfaces. Robots, projections, soundtracks, internet, mobile phones, sensors and other systems are used to create "temporary antimonuments for foreign instances". He has produced works for the Millennium Commemorations in Mexico City (1999), Rotterdam European Cultural Capital (2001), the World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society in Lyon (2003), the inauguration of the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (2003) and the welcoming of the ten new European Union countries in Dublin (2004).

He has presented kinetic sculptures, user-friendly environments, video installations and photographs at numerous international events, including the Basel Contemporary Art Fair, the Liverpool Biennial, the Shanghai Biennial, and the Itaú Cultural in São Paulo, the Istanbul Biennale, ARCO in Madrid, the Havana Biennale and the Graz Biennale of Architecture and Media, the EMAF (European Media Art Festival) in Osnabrück, exhibitions at the Laboratorio Arte Alameda in Mexico City, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and others.

At the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer received a Golden Nica in 2000, an honorary award in 2002 and a mention in 1995 and 1998. He has won two Grand Prizes for Interactive Art from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in London in 2002 and 2005, the Best Installation Award at the International Digital Media Awards in Toronto in 1996, and the Gold Medal of I Magazine. D (International Design) magazine gold medal in 2002, the Cyberstar Award in Cologne in 1996, a distinction at the Webby Awards of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2001, the title of Artist of the Year awarded by Wired magazine in 2003, an award of excellence at the Media Art Festival of the Computer Graphic Arts Society in Tokyo in 2001, the World Technologies Award in the Arts category in 2003, a Rockefeller and a Langlois grant in 2003, the Trophée des Lumières in Lyon in 2003, the HorizonZero prize for the best interactive installation in 2003 and a prize from the International Bauhaus in Dessau in 2002.

He has participated in workshops and conferences, in particular at the InterCommunication Center in Tokyo, the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, the MediaLab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Guggenheim Museum, the Rencontres internationales du design in Aspen, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Nederlands Architectuurinstituut in Rotterdam, the University of California, the Transmediale in Berlin, the British National Museum of Photography and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Journals that have published his work include Kunstforum and Telepolis in Germany, Performance Research in England, Archis in the Netherlands, Leonardo and Aztlán in the United States, and Movimiento actual in Mexico. He has served on several international juries, including those of the Daniel Langlois Foundation, the Inter-Society for the Electronic Arts, Hexagram, the Milia in Cannes, the GMD in Bonn, the international competition Arte y vida artificial and Cyberconf in Madrid. Twice artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, he is currently in residence at the Institute for Research in Construction, under the auspices of the Canadian National Research Council.