

Press release, April 24, 2007



## **MEXICAN PAVILION**

52<sup>nd</sup> International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

- Mexico will participate for the first time with an official pavilion in the oldest and most prestigious art biennial in the world.
- The artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer will present an exhibition entitled *Some Things Happen More Often Than All of the Time*, curated by Príamo Lozada and Bárbara Perea.
- The Soranzo Van Axel Palace, built in the 15th-century, will be the venue for the Mexican pavilion.
- A catalogue will be published by Turner Books, including essays by the renowned critics Manuel de Landa, Barbara London, Cuauhtémoc Medina, and Victor Stoichita.
- The pavilion is sponsored by Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Consejo de Promoción Turística as well as the generous support of the Jumex Foundation, the Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo and the BBVA Bancomer Foundation.

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 official participation is the result of joint efforts by Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Consejo de Promoción Turística and the generous support of the Fundación Jumex and the Fundación BBVA Bancomer. The non-profit Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo, which has also contributed funding and resources, will be in charge of the administration of the project.

The pavilion will host a solo show by Mexican 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.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is an internationally acclaimed artist with a practice spanning more than 20 years of work, during which he has received numerous prizes and distinctions.

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.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Mexico, 1967) 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.

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 Millennium 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 pavilion.

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, Lozano-Hemmer's work will also be exhibited at Art Basel *Unlimited* and in the exhibition *Automatic Update* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Mexican Pavilion:  
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..... Photos of some works in the Pavilion .....

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer "Pulse Room" 2006. Incandescent lightbulbs, digital dimmers, heart rate sensors, computer, metal sculpture. Variable dimensions. Courtesy Puebla 2031, Mexico, © the artist.

[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/pulseRoom\\_01.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/pulseRoom_01.jpg)

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Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Under Scan" 2006. Projectors, computerized surveillance system. Variable dimensions. Courtesy East Midlands Development Agency, UK, © the artist.

[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/underScan\\_01.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/underScan_01.jpg)

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Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. "Wavefunction" 2007. Linear actuators, servomotors, computerized surveillance system, circuits, Eames chairs by Vitra. Courtesy and © the artist.

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Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "1000 Platitudes" 2003. Lambda C-Print on aluminium stretcher, single channel video. Three panels each 120 x 300 cm. Courtesy V2\_Organisatie, Netherlands, © the artist.

[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/1000Platitudes\\_01.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/1000Platitudes_01.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Amodal Suspension" 2003. Xenon 7kW robotic searchlights, 8 webcams, linux servers, GPS unit, Java 3D DMX interface, java cell-phone interface, projectors. Light patterns were visible along a 15Km radius. Courtesy Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media, Japan, © the artist.

[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/amodalSuspension.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/amodalSuspension.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Body Movies" 2001. Xenon 7kW projectors with robotic scrollers, 1,200 duraclear transparencies, computerized surveillance system, plasma screen, mirrors. Projection measures between 400 and 1800 square metres. Courtesy V2\_Organisatie, Rotterdam, © Arie Kievit  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/bodyMovies.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/bodyMovies.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Displaced Emperors" 1997. Xenon 7kW projector with robotic scroller, duraclear transparencies, ultrasonic 3D tracking system. Projection measures 800 square metres. Courtesy Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, © the artist.  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/displacedEmperors.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/displacedEmperors.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Frequency and Volume" 2003. Projectors, frequency scanners, antennas, radios, 16 channel sound system, computerized surveillance system. Courtesy Laboratorio Arte Alameda, Mexico, © the artist  
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Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Subtitled Public" 2005. Projectors, computerized surveillance system. Courtesy Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, BBVA Bancomer Foundation, Mexico, © Alex Dorfsman  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/subtitledPublic.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/subtitledPublic.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Surface Tension" 1992. Projector or plasma screen, computerized surveillance system. Courtesy and © the artist.  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/surfaceTension\\_seq.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/surfaceTension_seq.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Two Origins" 2002. Xenon 7kW projectors with robotic scrollers, 800 duraclear transparencies, computer, mirrors. Projection measures 800 square metres. Courtesy Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse, © the artist  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/twoOrigins.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/twoOrigins.jpg)

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, "Vectorial Elevation" 1999. Xenon 7kW robotic searchlights, 3 webcams, linux servers, GPS unit, Java 3D DMX interface. Light sculptures were visible along a 15Km radius. Courtesy Programa Milenio, Mexico, © Martin Vargas.  
[http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease\\_Venezia2007/vectorialElevation.jpg](http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/pressRelease_Venezia2007/vectorialElevation.jpg)