

Interactive display is part of £1m project

Mexican to put his art in city

A MEXICAN artist is to create an interactive art installation in Lincoln as part of a £1 million project.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer has set up huge visual sculptures, which often include light beams, for cities around the world – winning numerous awards in the process.

Now funding from the East Midlands Development Agency will bring the 37-year-old and his unique interactive installations to public spaces in the region.

Dave Rose (35), spokesman for Leicester-based ArtReach, which is managing the project, said: "This is a special one-off interactive installation which will be placed in the city.

"It is not a sculpture – it will be a video projection and if it's anything like his recent work it will be very striking.

"It will also be very interactive with people in the city centre – it could even be that the public can alter the artwork."

Mr Lozano-Hemmer was selected from 90 other artists as part of a commissioning process.

As part of the deal he will also create art for Derby, Leicester, Northampton and Nottingham.

Mr Rose said: "Rafael will be visiting the region later this month to view public spaces in each city.

"Wherever it is it will be very public and very exciting for the people who witness it.

"It is a brand new project and each city will have a different piece of work."

Mr Lozano-Hemmer won two Baf-ta awards for interactive art, in 2002 and in 2005.

He has also been awarded a Golden Nica award at the Prix Ars Electronica in Austria and a clutch of other significant international art prizes.



TALENTED: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is to create an interactive art installation in Lincoln.

by Henry Killworth

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Mr Lozano-Hemmer said: "I am delighted to have been chosen to work in the region, and with its cities and towns, spaces and people.

"There is clearly a real commitment to the visual arts here and I am honoured to present a project designed to engage people and transform public space."

The interactive art will be installed some time later this year or early next year.

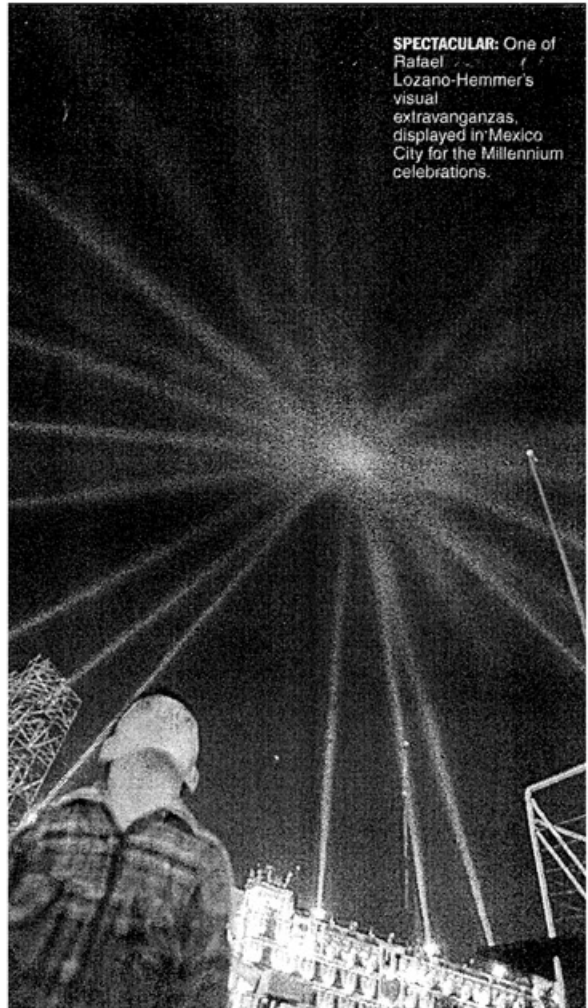
East Midlands Development Agency board member Ross Willmott said: "By creating and installing a brand new series of work specially for the East Midlands, Rafael is helping underline the region's commitment to the visual arts.

"It will boost our profile nationally and internationally.

"It will also specifically highlight the exciting developments in our region's many cultural quarters to the local communities themselves and visitors."

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✉ Or e-mail yourview@lincolnshireecho.co.uk



SPECTACULAR: One of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's visual extravaganzas, displayed in Mexico City for the Millennium celebrations.