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GHOST PEOPLE: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer with his £1 million installation in Humberstone Gate

Shadow magic will give 'ownership' of city

THE mastermind behind one of the biggest and most expensive artworks ever seen in Leicester says the exhibition will give people "ownership" of the city.

Bafta award-winner Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is behind *Under Scan*, the £1 million spectacle on show in Leicester for 11 nights from Thursday.

The project features 1,000 moving portraits of people from across the region, including 200 from Leicester, and is billed as the world's largest interactive video installation.

Pedestrians walking in Humberstone Gate from dusk until midnight will be able to watch ghost-like figures dancing,

laughing and larking about in their shadows.

Among the floodlights and film projectors is a hi-tech tracking system that brings the spooky apparitions to life only when someone walks by.

Mr Lozano-Hemmer, who has spent years perfecting the art of shadow magic, said *Under Scan* would make people feel like they "own" a part of their city.

He said: "I think it will serve as an example of how we can make cities progress.

"I have been to cities all over the world where politicians seem to think the only way to regenerate a city is to stick up some 19th century lampposts.

"Here, we are actually giving people ownership of their city because it is a phenomenon that makes citizens feel connected to their surroundings.

"It is a very intimate experience because the figures only react when you are there to look at them. They seek your attention."

The 38-year-old Mexican-Canadian was picked out of nearly 100 applicants.

This is the first time he has worked with moving images and is his most expensive project to date.

The display will run from 6.30pm until midnight, and 2am on Friday and Saturday nights.