The National



Mexican-Canadian Rafael Lozano-Hemmer has harnessed technology to highlight our fundamentally shared humanity in his art installation Pulse Corniche. Courtesy Rafael Lozano Hemmer

Seeing a heartbeat – from 15km away

National Editorial

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In this age of technology, it's easy to feel cut off from each other. While walking in the street, for example, many of us might have often wondered whether the person gesticulating next to us is crazy or simply reacting to what he is hearing through tiny earbud headphones. It's no wonder that modern technology seems increasingly isolating.

Now, an artist has some answers to the problem. As The National's arts&life section reports today, Mexican-Canadian Rafael Lozano-Hemmer has harnessed technology to highlight our fundamentally shared humanity in his art installation Pulse Corniche. It will be on display on the Abu Dhabi Corniche from tomorrow until January 17 – the last 10 days of Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's Seeing Through Light exhibition. The work uses powerful robotic searchlights to draw patterns in the sky, visible from 15 kilometres away. Notably and uniquely, the lights are controlled entirely by visitors' heartbeats. You will need to see it to feel it.