BACKGROUND

In 1989, Lozano-Hemmer received a B.Sc. in Physical Chemistry from Concordia University in Montréal, Canada. As an electronic artist, his main interest is in creating works that involve public participation.

His large-scale interactive installations have been commissioned for events such as the Winter Olympics in Vancouver (2010), and the pre-opening exhibition of the Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi (2015). He has had solo exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the MUAC Museum in Mexico City, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

He has also shown at Art Biennials and Triennials in Havana, Istanbul, Kochi, Liverpool, Montréal, Moscow, New Orleans, Seville, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore and Sydney. Collections holding his work include the MoMA in New York; Tate in London; and museums in Toronto, Miami, Mexico City, Zurich, Istanbul, Hobart, Montréal, Singapore, among others.

He has received two BAFTA British Academy Awards for Interactive Art, an "Artist of the Year" Rave Award from Wired Magazine, a Rockefeller fellowship, and an International Bauhaus Award in Dessau. In the United States, he has lectured at Princeton, Harvard, University of California Berkeley, the Cooper Union, University of Southern California, MIT MediaLab, the Guggenheim Museum, LA MOCA, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

SOLPLANO (“FLAT SUN”)

The sun is the subject of this interactive wall-mounted sculpture . One-billionth the size of the actual sun, the disk seems to mimic the activity on the solar surface. The artwork senses the viewer’s presence, becoming more active and agitated when people are nearby, and calmer when the room is empty. The sculpture metaphorically suggests humankind’s interaction with nature, and nature’s response to human presence.

It is a circular display that simulates the turbulence on the surface of the sun. The piece consists of custom-made panels with 60,000 red and yellow LED lights. Hidden behind the panels in a metal housing attached to the wall are a computer with eight processors and a camera with a pinhole lens that looks out through the display. The panels are on a structure that pivots away from the housing for maintenance. A knob is used to set the brightness of the piece, and to turn it on and off.

The artwork is a surveillance tracking system. It takes the information provided by the camera regarding the activity in the room, and applies algorithms, some relevant to fluid dynamics and others to computer games (Navier Stokes, fractal flames, reaction diffusion and Perlin noise), to activate the LED lights in ways that appear to simulate solar activity. The piece comes with an eleven page installation manual: http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/texts/manuals/Flatsun_installation.pdf .

For more information about the artist, see his website: http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/bio.php

For more information about the artwork, see the artist's website about Solplano: http://www.lozano-hemmer.com/flatsun.php

Linda Karlson
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