MEGADEMOCRAT
THE PUBLIC ART OF RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER

“Lovely, poignant work”
Christopher Knight, Los Angeles Times

www.megalodemocrat.com

A FILM BY BENJAMIN DUFFIELD
“It used to be that you would walk into a museum and seek to be inspired by the artwork. The situation has completely reversed. Today the artwork has cameras so it can observe you, it has microphones so it can hear you, it has sensors so it can feel you, and the idea is that it’s the artwork that is hoping to be inspired by the public.”

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is one of the most acclaimed artists working today, but his pieces wouldn’t exist without public participation. 

MEGALODEMOCRAT explores Rafael’s quest to stage a democratic takeover of urban space. Shot over 10 years in 30 cities around the world, the film provides intimate access to his large-scale interactive creations in locations such as Trafalgar Square in London, the Vancouver Olympics and New York’s Park Avenue Tunnel, culminating in a piece that crosses the US-Mexico border. In our increasingly isolated lives, MEGALODEMOCRAT serves as an antidote to alienation: Rafael’s work is a rallying point for a screened-in urban population, longing to connect. His art doesn’t discriminate, and all who participate are given a voice. With that voice comes a sense of hope.
“Rafael Lozano-Hemmer’s artwork lets you know you’re alive.”

Sadie Dingfelder (October 30, 2018 – Washington Post)

“Lozano-Hemmer takes political art to a new level; utopia becomes reality and ideas are converted into practice. Far from the pedantry of so much art self-defined as political, Lozano-Hemmer has concentrated on giving the power to the people, who become the users of the works which they can both control and enjoy as both viewer and protagonist.”

Roberta Bosco (Dec. 12, 2018 – miradorarts.com)

“Can an artist be a creator of entertaining, technologically inspired, interactive creations that people line up to try, and be, at the same time, a somewhat macabre intellectual with a penchant for social criticism? Based on the career of the Montreal-based, Mexico City-born artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, the answer is yes.”