



LIGHT SHOW: PAVEMENT PORTRAITS WILL BRING STREET TO LIFE

Moving pictures



INTRIGUE: Shadows will meet pedestrians in Humberstone Gate

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Ghost-like figures will rise up from the pavement and follow walkers across a city square when an ambitious art installation gets under way.

The remarkable sight will meet pedestrians in Humberstone Gate and will be one of the biggest – and most expensive – works of its kind.

From Thursday, the stretch of pavement between Gap, Marks & Spencers and Woolworth's will host the world's largest interactive video artwork, featuring 1,000 portraits of people from across the region.

The moving figures, including 200 people from Leicester, will be beamed on to the ground for 11 nights and will come alive whenever people walk by.

The project is called Under Scan and has been designed by Mexican-Canadian artist and Bafta award winner Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.

In the coming months, it will tour five cities and towns in the East Midlands, and could go on to tour to cities worldwide.

Members of the international me-



PICTURE: GLEN TILLYARD / 167728-2

INTERACTIVE ART: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer checking out the city centre last year. His latest installation, Under Scan, will cost £1 million

dia have been invited to Leicester to see its official switch-on.

In all, it will cover 1,500 square metres, making it the largest installation of its kind ever created.

Using the world's brightest light projector, which will be mounted at the top of a tower, white light will flood the square.

The portraits will only appear on the ground when a computerised tracking system senses someone

moving by. As the person's shadow covers the projection, it will come alive.

Rafael – who has created similar projects in Japan, France and Mexico – will be flying in on Monday to get his most ambitious installation to date running.

He said: "The unveiling of Under Scan represents the culmination of almost a year's work.

"I hope it will bring a new experi-

ence to Leicester people and visitors to the city, and will provide them with an intriguing shadow-play where members of the public become actors."

The project is costing £1 million to stage and has been commissioned to celebrate the £140 million that East Midlands Development Agency (Emda) is spending on cultural quarters in cities such as Leicester. The artist's fee is £25,000.

City council leisure spokesman John Mugglestone said: "Leicester is continuing to provide and host new arts experiences.

"Under Scan represents a unique opportunity for local people to experience a very special video installation on their doorstep.

"It is fitting that Under Scan is helping celebrate cultural regeneration as our own cultural quarter is being transformed."

Emda board member and city councillor Ross Willmott said: "Instead of just doing a marketing brochure of how good cultural regeneration is, we are actually doing something."

The display will be in the city for 11 nights from Thursday between 6.30pm and midnight.

On Friday and Saturday nights, it will be switched on until 2am.