

**12.Fun
EXPLORE**
DECEMBER 10-16 2011



Shock therapy



YOU'RE PART OF THE SHOW AT THE MCA'S CONFRONTING NEW EXHIBITION, WRITES **ELIZABETH FORTESCUE**

When the lights go out in the art gallery and everyone but the guy with the torch has gone home, the art in the gallery is still art. Obvious. But the exhibition that opens next week at the Museum Of Contemporary Art is different.

When everyone leaves *Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Records* at the end of the day, the art will go to sleep. The artworks will no longer blink on and off, create ghostly shadows, spit out random questions, or emit digital smoke. That's because all the works in *Records* rely on interaction with

the audience in order to fulfill their potential as art. In the work called *Pulse Room*, audience members hold a heart-rate sensor which causes one of 100 globes to flash at the same rate. By standing still, they prompt an image of their face to appear on the screen of the work called *The Year's Midnight*. The software within the work then digitally removes their eyes. Their eye sockets then emit digital smoke which eventually covers their entire face. By tapping on a keyboard, they can add a question to a computer program which uses grammatical

Get personal: rules to combine words and generates 55 billion unique *People On* questions which it would take more **and Shadow** than 3000 years to ask. This work is titled *33 Questions Per Minute*. **Box 3 (left and above right)** Some of the works mimic forms of surveillance, following and compiling data about anyone who passes by. Someone once asked Lozano-Hemmer if it were possible to resist being tracked and recorded by his works. But, as in real life, escape would seem elusive. "One thing you could do is not go to the show," Lozano-Hemmer says. "The other way to do it is to wear disguises. It's always neat to see

people pretend they're not who they really are. It's a fun part of it." But visitors needn't worry that they have to perform in some way. "Some pieces benefit from that," Lozano-Hemmer says. "But I'm hoping that it's going to be interesting for people even if they're not performing. Just looking is a way of participating." Lozano-Hemmer has a degree in science, and is proud to say the "nerdiness goes deep" into his art. In an age of computer surveillance and profile tracking, Lozano-Hemmer believes the challenge for artists is to "misuse these

technologies to create critical or otherwise connective experiences fortescue@dailytelegraph.com twitter @02artwriter

● **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer** Museum Of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay, December 12, free, mca.com.au