

IMAGES: STREET TO HOST VIDEO PROJECT



PICTURE: 167728-2/GLEN TILLYARD |

VISION: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer checks out Humberstone Gate for his art project

Art will lift city out of shadows!

Detailed plans of how a city street will be transformed into a work of art have been revealed.

Bafta award-winning Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is to install an interactive video system which will react with pedestrians and their shadows at night time.

The ambitious work will be in Humberstone Gate for 10 days in January.

It will cover 1,600 square metres, making it the largest installation of its kind in the world. Using the world's brightest projector, which will be mounted at the top of a tower, light will flood the area, creating shadows when people walk in the area.

A series of robotic projectors, linked to a tracking system, will

by **LIZ HAWLEY**

sense when people walk into different parts of the area and when pedestrians move, a video portrait of another person will appear in their shadow.

Up to 15 different moving images will appear in pedestrians' shadows at any one time.

The project, called Under Scan, has been specifically designed by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer for the East Midlands.

The Mexican-Canadian said: "The piece will help highlight the exciting regeneration of the city centre, which should ideally be driven by cultural and artistic development."

City bosses hope the project will put the region on the map for hosting internationally significant visual art.

City centre manager David Best said: "We need more public

art in the city and I will do anything I can to encourage it.

"Hopefully, it will be the first of a great deal of additional projects like this in years to come."

Members of the public have also welcome the project.

Beth Hodgkinson, 27, who works in the city centre, said: "I think it will be good for the city.

"It will be nice to see the mix of art and technology in Leicester."

David Howe, 36, from Stoneygate, said: "I think the idea is very interesting. The method seems very cutting-edge."

Artists from the region are creating a database of 1,000 video portraits of local people, which will be fed into the system.

A filming session is being held at LCB Depot in Rutland Street, Leicester on Friday.

To arrange a time slot, e-mail:

aoife@artreach.biz