

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum Presents

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Obra Sonora

December 7, 2024 – June 15, 2025



Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Mexican, b. 1967). *Sphere Packing: Bach*, 2018. Aluminum and wood, 1,128 custom-made speakers, circuits, computer, display, 118 x 118 x 118 in. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Guy L'Heureux.

November 11, 2024 (Naples, Florida) — Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum is pleased to present *Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Obra Sonora* (Spanish for “sound work”), a solo exhibition of artworks by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer that engage and experiment with sound as their primary medium. These works present immersive audio environments, spaces for collective listening and new approaches to making sound visible. Visitors can explore the sonic potential of sounds ranging from classical music to field recordings to a single human voice.

Lozano-Hemmer describes the experience: “As museum visitors circulate the exhibition, they are confronted with and compelled to consider the shifting politics of the voice, of noise and of the cultural contexts where we encounter and listen to one another.” *Obra Sonora* will be on view from December 7, 2024, through June 15, 2025. For more information, please visit www.artisnaples.org/baker-museum.

For more than three decades, Lozano-Hemmer has integrated art, science, architecture and technology into his trailblazing artistic practice. The celebrated artist is known for his participatory installations, which have been showcased in major solo exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum, SFMOMA, Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal and the Venice Biennale, among others. *Obra Sonora* features pieces on loan from museums and public collections in the U.S., Turkey and Mexico. It is the first museum exhibition to explore Lozano-Hemmer’s pioneering use of sound in his practice, and it is the largest-ever museum presentation of his work in the southeastern United States.

Obra Sonora comprises 14 sonically engaged artworks by Lozano-Hemmer. Together, these pieces intone various histories and traditions of auditory experience and sonic practices, ranging from multi-channel audio environments with thousands of speakers—what the artist describes as “speakers as pixels”—to embodied architectures for collective listening, from sound-objects to endoscopic explorations of the very anatomy of vocal expression. This range of approaches to sonority is matched by the exhibition’s changing sensorial atmospheres. Within the fluctuating terrain of *Obra Sonora*, one work might invoke an interactive and intimate experience, while the next will loom with dense layers of noise; one might offer a liberating view of the potential change a single speaking voice might spark, while the next will showcase the bellicose marches that make up most of the world’s national anthems.

This exhibition includes monumental works such as *Field Atmosphonia*, a sound and light environment featuring 3,000 audio channels playing back natural field recordings; *Volute 2*, a speech bubble presented as an oversized aluminum sculpture; and *Sphere Packing: Bach*, a 10-foot-diameter sphere that supports 1,128 loudspeakers—each playing a different composition by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Featuring one world premiere and 13 works in total, *Obra Sonora* is Lozano-Hemmer’s most ambitious exhibition focused on exploring the materiality of sound as a medium of expression and image-making. Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum is proud to present *Obra Sonora* as part of the organization’s 2024-25 season programming united by the theme of *Storytelling*. In conjunction with the exhibition, the museum will present an artist talk, panel discussion and a conversation between Lozano-Hemmer and Artis—Naples Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Obra Sonora is organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum, with project leadership from Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator, and Libby Harrington, director of museum exhibitions and operations. This exhibition is generously sponsored by Commerce Trust, the Collier County Tourist Development Council and Douglas M. VanOort.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Saturday, December 7, 11:30am • Rowe Performance and Learning Center

In Tangible Noise artist talk, featuring Rafael Lozano-Hemmer in conversation with critic Michael Nardone

Saturday, December 7, 1:30pm • Rowe Performance and Learning Center

In Tangible Noise panel discussion with sound art scholars Xenia Benivolski, Christoph Cox, Rudolf Frieling and Alexandra T. Vasquez

Thursday, January 2, 2pm • Rowe Performance and Learning Center

Free Make-and-Take Family Workshop: Music, Sound and Art

Wednesday, January 29, 6pm • Ubben Signature Event Space

Storytelling Through Sound: A Conversation with Alexander Shelley and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

Saturday, May 20, noon-4pm • Artis—Naples Cultural Campus

Free Community Day. Explore Artis—Naples with music, art and activities for the whole family!

Music and Museum

Tickets to all Naples Philharmonic Masterworks, Visiting Orchestras and other select performances include complimentary admission to The Baker Museum, along with special extended museum hours. View dates and hours at <https://artisnaples.org/calendar/music-and-museum>

Art After Hours

Enjoy free admission to The Baker Museum on the last Wednesday of each month from 6-9pm. Local musicians offer musical entertainment and audiences of all ages are welcome to view museum exhibitions and galleries.

RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, born in Mexico City in 1967, lives and works in Montréal. A Mexican-Canadian media artist, he creates platforms for public participation by using technologies such as robotic lights, digital fountains, computerized surveillance, media walls and telematic networks. Inspired by phantasmagoria, carnival and animatronics, his interactive works are “anti-monuments for people to self-represent.”

He was the first artist to represent Mexico at the Venice Biennale with an exhibition at Palazzo Van Axel in 2007. He has also shown at other Art Biennials such as Havana, Istanbul, Kochi, Liverpool, Melbourne, Mercosul, New Orleans, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Wuzhen. His large-scale participatory art installations transform public spaces, creating connective environments for communities. In 2019, he presented “Border Tuner”, designed to interconnect the cities of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. The project brought together tens of thousands of people, reuniting families on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Other works were commissioned for events such as the Millennium Celebrations in Mexico City (1999), the Cultural Capital of Europe in Rotterdam (2001), the UN World Summit in Lyon (2003), the Winter Olympics in Vancouver (2010) and the pre-opening of the Guggenheim Museum in Abu Dhabi (2015), among others. His works are in collections around the world such as MoMA, Guggenheim, TATE, Reina Sofia, Hirshhorn, NGV, MUAC and MONA. Major recent solo exhibitions include “Unstable Presence,” a mid-career retrospective co-produced by the Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montréal and SFMOMA; “Listening Forest,” installed over 120 acres of land at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas; “Common Measures,” his first solo exhibition at PACE Gallery, New York; and “Translation Island,” a 2-km parcours which included ten public artworks, in Lulu Island, Abu Dhabi. Please read further on his website <http://www.lozano-hemmer.com>

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 paid and free events annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida’s arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around Southwest Florida. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors. Following a successful designate year in 2023-24, Alexander Shelley begins his new role as artistic and music director in the 2024-25 season. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as artistic partner through the 2024-25 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 15 years in this role in the 2024-25 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music across genres.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 3,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collections reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world's leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the renovation and expansion of The Baker Museum and adjoining Norris Garden, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, which created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and Lee counties. Each season, thousands of Collier County Public School students interact with Artis—Naples education programming, both on our cultural campus and in their classrooms. Beyond our commitment to youth education, the Lifelong Learning program provides informative lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2023, the festival's 15th anniversary year, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's "20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations."

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