

By Maeve Kennedy, The Guardian, 02 June 2015

Visitors get a (mobile) bed for the night at Hayward's Höller show

Maev Kennedy

The customary "look but don't touch" etiquette for art exhibitions is about to be torn up at the Carsten Höller show in London, where the public will be invited to spend a night stretched out in one of the works - a bed which will pass the hours of darkness trundling slowly around the Hayward Gallery.

The price, at £300 for two beds, is comparable to an expensive London hotel, but even the most luxurious accommodation rarely includes flying machines, 15-metre high slides, or spectacles that turn the world upside down.

Höller, who originally trained as an agricultural scientist, is renowned for turning art galleries into playgrounds for both adults and children, making them shriek with glee and occasionally terror.

Visitors queued for hours in 2007 to go on his giant slides at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, which have been re-installed on the face of the Hayward.

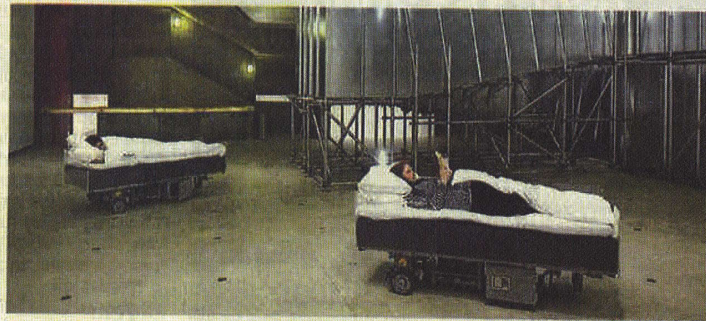
In his latest exhibition, Carsten Höller: *Decision*, the German artist says

his *Two Roaming Beds (Grey)* introduce "a moment of uncertainty", during which the sleepers cannot be sure the place where they close their eyes will be the same place they wake up.

Ralph Rugoff, the director of the gallery and curator of the exhibition, says the show will be "mind-boggling", adding - or perhaps warning - prospective overnighters: "On awakening they

may find that the Hayward will never look the same again." The house lights remain on all night - though guests will be offered earplugs and eye masks - with 24-hour CCTV monitoring.

No food or drink except water will be allowed into the gallery, though guests will be able to leave for meal breaks. Tea or coffee and the opportunity to take a shower will be offered in the morning.



Carsten Höller's *Two Roaming Beds (Grey)* move at only 70cm a minute

The beds are a bargain compared with one of Höller's previous overnight offerings, when visitors paid €1,000 (£720) to sleep with some live reindeer in a disused railway station in Berlin, which featured the unique nightcap of drinking some of the animals' urine - with the chance that it could be infused with hallucinogenic mushrooms (Höller tried the mushrooms himself and described the effects as "very unpleasant").

A less exclusive encounter with the beds can be enjoyed in daylight hours, when they will also be roaming the galleries. They will move slowly, at 70cm a minute, with the position of one bed determining that of the other, controlled by a range of navigational systems including radio beacons in the gallery ceiling, and a laser which sweeps the gallery floor to detect obstacles.

Carsten Höller: *Decision* runs from 10 June to 6 September at the Hayward Gallery, London. To book the beds visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk/carsten-hollerbeds