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Fibre Optics

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Absolute Action Install Fibre Optic Lights into The Kallos Gallery Mayfair, London

Specialising in the antiques of ancient Greece, The Kallos Gallery was founded by Lorne Thyssen-Bornemisza, a great private collector of artwork from the ancient world, continuing his family's passion for collecting and showcasing artefacts of exceptional quality and provenance.

The gallery showcases an array of exquisite gold coins, which are arranged to appear as though floating in the air. Each coin glints and glows in the unique housing, and the collection boasts different sized coins in a range of superficial reflectivity and embossing detail.

To create a harmonised display, different light intensities needed to be delivered on to each golden surface to balance the reflectivity from one coin to the next. Additionally the light beam had to be tailored to be able to encompass one single coin at a time, of whatever diameter. Each light fixture also had to be adjustable to ensure that the collection could be changed at any time, due to individual coins being moved to join other collections, and to include new Gallery acquisitions.

To achieve this complicated brief specially-designed miniature optical lensed heads, one per coin, containing a lens of specific optical properties and two independently



adjustable iris diaphragms were used.

The focusable lensed heads can be directed so that a dedicated light beam falls over each coin, such beam then being manually controlled as to both size and intensity by manipulation of the independent diaphragms.

Each and every coin, now and in the future, can thus be individually illuminated in an entirely bespoke way with its own miniature and perfectly-tuned fibre optic light head.

This project saw a range of collaborators come together

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including Cannon-Brookes Lighting and Design who oversaw the lighting design of the project. Absolute Action designed and manufactured the bespoke fibre optic design and Steve Wakeham handled the photography. 

Absolute Action
+44 (0)203 021 8000
www.absolute-action.com

