

## "Leonardo da Vinci/1452-1519" exhibition at the Palazzo Reale, Milan

Architect: Corrado Anselmi, Milan / Italy  
Lighting designer: Barbara Balestreri, Milan / Italy  
Photographer: Dirk Vogel, Dortmund / Germany  
Project location: Milan / Italy  
01.12.2016

Several paintings in the exhibition appear to be self-illuminating. The effect of this painted play of light and shadow intensifies when illuminating the artwork with LED technology – as demonstrated with striking results in the Leonardo da Vinci exhibition.

The Palazzo Reale in Milan, a former royal palace, is today an important exhibition venue. Recent highlights include the "Leonardo da Vinci / 1452-1519" exhibition presenting a large selection of works brought together from the finest museums in the world, such as the Louvre, the British Museum in London, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Among the exhibits on display in Milan was "La Belle Ferronnière", the portrait of a woman sitting against a black background, her face illuminated by light from the front. A very similar approach was used in the lighting concept for the exhibition at the Palazzo Reale. Set in a darkened room, the paintings were effectively accentuated by precisely focused beams of light. The result simply magnified their already compelling effect – artwork by Leonardo da Vinci that appeared to be self-illuminating.

The exhibition was illuminated using dimmable ERCO Pollux spotlights in 6W, with an output of 630lm and 3000K. Pollux contour spotlights are designed for precise adjustment of the beam to suit the format of a painting. With an intuitive framing attachment, the beam of each track-mounted spotlight is quick and easy to adjust, achieving maximum flexibility. Thanks to the compact housing, the luminaire itself recedes discreetly into the background, focusing the attention entirely on the lit effect. With a spectrum free of IR and UV components, LED light meets all the curatorial requirements, making it ideal particularly for the illumination of valuable historic artwork – such as created by Leonardo da Vinci.



