

NEW LIGHTING IN THE GALLERY OF TAPESTRIES

Total Cost € 200.000,00

STRUCTURE OF THE REVISION:

The scope of this project will be revised according to the installations and structures present in the Gallery to guarantee conservation of the tapestries and promote a better flow of traffic and enhance security of the works. In particular, this project includes:

- Modification and substitution of the actual glass doors at the front and end of the Gallery
- Addition and allocation of alarm, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors
- Revision and upgrading of the air conditioning with the substitution of 6 coil fans with multiple heating and air conditioning vents and humidity control units
- Substitution of the glass in the windows

Designed by the School of Raphael, the magnificent drapes that bedeck the walls of the Gallery of Tapestries were hand stitched by in Brussels by Pieter van Aelst's Flemish School during the pontificate of Clement VII (1523-1534). These tapestries were first displayed in the Sistine Chapel in 1531 and moved to this hallway for exhibition in 1838.

The Gallery of Tapestries, where these precious drapes of the Vatican collection are still kept, presently does not meet neither basic nor standard security measures and does not allow for an accurate reading of the works. This proposal includes the revision of the points of illumination, light fixtures, sprinklers and signage for emergencies, as they are currently not present in the Gallery.

The new lighting project proposed for the Gallery of Tapestries will be a stimulating challenge for the professionals in the sector. It will, in fact, provide the Gallery with high chromatic yield lighting such that it will enhance the details and the preciousness of the works and at the same time, respect the need to conserve the materials (as noted the illumination values are 50 lux). It therefore provides the option of purified light sources that are free of ultraviolet and infrared light, the two most frequent causes of alteration and color fading. The use of such lighting will ensure the fidelity of the original chromatic range.

Another ambitious objective is to adequately and appropriately illuminate the arcade for the suitable ambiance of the exhibition, enhancing the architecture in the gallery, the delicate paintings on the vaults and the magnificent large-scale tapestries on the walls with homogenous illumination.

It will be necessary to conduct a careful study to calculate the collocation of the light fixtures on the top part of the walls, with a choice of inconspicuous installations or fixtures of high design, to obtain reflexive illumination that diffuses uniformly on the walls.

Collaboration with important professionals will guarantee the appropriate aesthetic and technical selection to maximize these superb tapestries, making them three-dimensional in a way that can adequately display their rich artistic value.

