



▲ *The MFAH's expansive gallery walls are uniformly lit from top-to-bottom by a brand new award-winning lighting technology. Invented and built by QuarkStar, it is the first of its kind in a public installation. Photo by Richard Barnes*

▼ *QuarkStar's Q-Wall linear wall washes are based on a revolutionary new light-sculpting optical technology that can create extraordinary distributions from extraordinarily small footprints less than an inch wide.*



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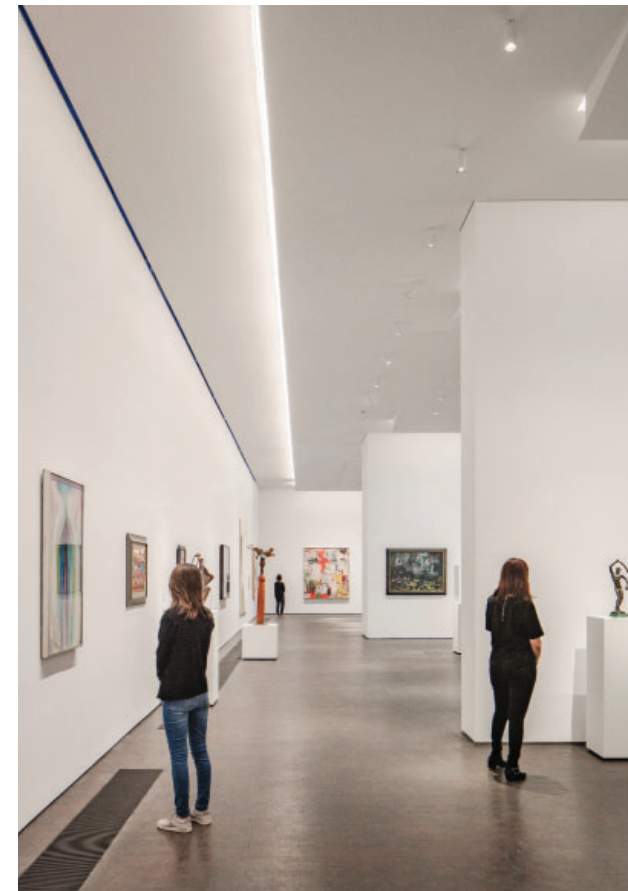
QuarkStar's **Edge-X™** technology delivers something previously never before seen in the lighting world: evenly distributed sheets of light easily spanning 16-ft gallery walls and daylight-matching color-tuning from a single row of LEDs, all from a footprint so small when the museum saw it placed in a ceiling mockup, they chose to redesign the cove to take advantage of the empty space that was left behind.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's recently completed Nancy and Rich Kinder Building is not only an architectural marvel, but a supremely well-tuned instrument of light and lighting. It is top-to-bottom innovation of the luminous: the skylights above, the liminal glass cladding outside, the light-based installation art below in the underground tunnels, and QuarkStar innovations in the middle ... all in service of the ultimate innovations on display – the art itself.

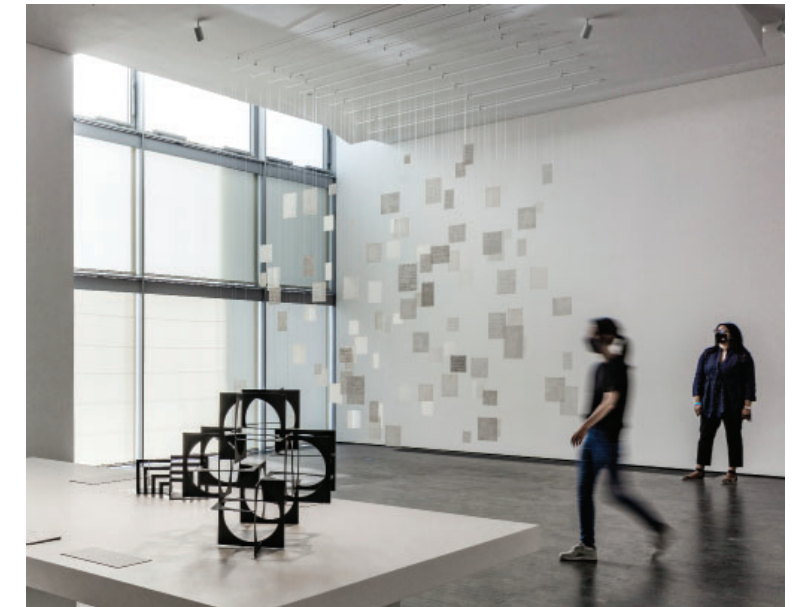
Read more about the revolution in lighting technology that can sculpt light as if it's architectural material >>



◀ The **QuarkStar Q-Wall's** diminutive size and extraordinary light distribution sets new standards in lighting. It means curators can easily display art of multiple sizes and shapes without worrying about hot/dark spots, while visitors are able to appreciate the collections from multiple viewpoints without distracting shadows or discomfort glare. Photos by Richard Barnes



◀ A single row of **QuarkStar Q-Wall** fixtures provides exceptional uniformity over 16-foot high walls. Q-Wall is the first commercial luminaire to provide seamlessly mixed light as it exits the beam-shaping optic, allowing it to present any work of art at its finest.



▲ **Yes, the lights are on!**

The combination of uniformity and tunable color mixing right from the optic blends natural sunlight with the light of concealed luminaires to create the impression of daylight penetration far into gallery spaces.

As the sun sets, **QuarkStar** takes over, flawlessly maintaining consistent, even illumination on the far wall from an optic less than an inch wide. Photo by Peter Molick ▼



INSIDE THE MUSEUM

QUARKSTAR'S REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY BRIDGES THE NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL

What makes great lighting?

The average person may find it difficult to put into words, but, like great art, they know it when they see it ... literally. Light is essential to the human experience, and even without a technical vocabulary for lighting, nearly every person on Earth can grasp in a single glance whether a space is lit well or poorly.

But being able to articulate what makes not just good but great lighting becomes paramount when working with one of the premier museums in North America. The MFAH is committed to a comprehensively immersive experience for their visitors, from when they first set eyes on the campus to when they're positioned right in front of the artwork. Gallery lights at the museum face some of the most rigorous challenges of quality, high-performance lighting that exist in the industry, especially when paired with the ground-breaking architectural designs.

Focus should be on the art, not the walls.

The Kinder Building's 16-ft tall canvas of inner gallery walls needed to be illuminated uniformly from top to bottom so that art pieces do not compete for attention against background gradations. This has historically been extremely difficult to do with conventional lighting technologies.

Color temperature doesn't just set the mood.

Good color mixing and matching is crucial for both the proper illumination of art and for seamless merging with natural light. The Kinder building's pioneering architectural design tames Texas daylight into a beautifully diffuse, ambient experience. To mimic this experience with artificial lighting, light needs to be perfectly mixed when it exits the optic rather than several feet away. This has been impossible in a commercial light, much less one that is an inch wide ... until now.

To enable brand new capabilities, one needs to do things in brand new ways. QuarkStar's award-winning patented Edge-X technology enabled a linear wall wash to deliver on all of the above and more ... and it doesn't stop at wall washes. Edge-X can sculpt light as if it was just another architectural material, creating radically new distributions, allowing marvelous new design opportunities.

This is what QuarkStar's Edge-X technology enables - a revolution in lighting.

An architectural vision such as the Kinder Building should not have to design around a fixture. Instead, the lighting should be integrated invisibly into the built environment and deliver an experience nearly indistinguishable from standing near a window or under a cloud-inspired skylight.

To find out more visit www.QuarkStar.com