

Great Masters to be Hung on **Fermacell** Walls

Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield



photo by Iwan Benn

www.fermacell.co.uk

Project: Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield, Yorkshire / **Architects :** David Chipperfield Architects / **Main Contractors:** Laing O'Rourke



The load bearing capability of Fermacell gypsum fibre boards was a key factor in the product being specified for the internal walls within the new Hepworth Wakefield art gallery in Yorkshire.

The Hepworth Wakefield has been designed by David Chipperfield Architects and built by Laing O'Rourke. The gallery is part of a £100 million development project for Wakefield, designed to transform the historic waterfront.

It is the largest purpose built gallery outside London occupying 5,500 square metres with 2,000 sq. metres dedicated to art gallery space. The building is made up of 10 gallery blocks, each one of which will house art, and with a skylight and a window for a view.

Fermacell dry lining has been used on the internal walls with the longest being 20 metres by eight metres high. Given the gallery's clean aesthetic lines, Fermacell was the ideal choice as visual joints can be minimized, whilst meeting the load criteria for hanging artwork.

The Hepworth Wakefield offers state of the art visitor facilities including a new café overlooking the River Calder, a learning centre offering a varied programme of workshops, and a 100-seat auditorium where visitors can enjoy talks, lectures, performances, film-screenings and concerts.

Doug Topham, Project Manager with installers SCS Group says that the internal walls were to be made from plywood backed plasterboard, but the decision to opt for Fermacell was taken because of its durability and great hanging strength.

"Fermacell is a really good product," he says, adding: "it gave us peace of mind working on the high internal walls knowing that they would be straight and true and provide a good surface for our plasterers to skim and deliver an excellent finish. This enabled us to cut back on our snagging list and overall time taken on the job."

Regularly specified for galleries and museums, Fermacell offers exceptional load bearing properties, and because it is so strong, even heavy artworks can be fixed directly to the walls with no need for noggins or other support. In fact, up to 30kg can be supported from a single screw fixed straight into the board with no additional fixings - this goes up to 50kg with a single wall plug or toggle type fixing.

