

LIKE GOLD DUST

*Glow* is an installation of nearly 1000, hand-gilded, standard light bulbs. Suspended on a level plane they form a 'pregnant pause' between the floor and the gallery ceiling.

The piece started life as one in a series of installation works made in response to the communal spaces within my studio complex. I sought to transform the commonplace, to re-interpret the ordinary, and to make art from the mundane. *Glow* arose from this investigation, as did the gilding of houseflies and continues in recent works such as *Swarm*, which utilises thousands of blue steel carpet tacks.

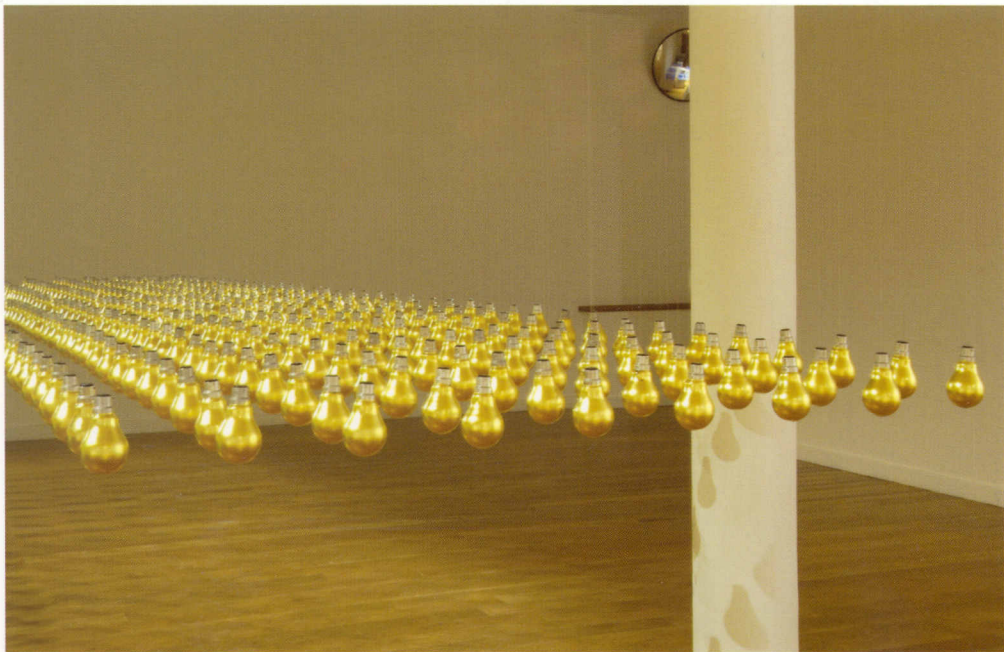
I am interested in the process of making; drawn to a methodical, repetitive practice that demands patience, discipline and rigour. Spent bulbs, no longer able to emit light, were gilded before being returned to their original fittings. Within a skin of the purest gold, the bulbs now reflect available light, living extended lives as objects of beauty and 'worth'. This work is informed by the possibilities the material provides and the context in which it is ultimately housed.

The work acquires an expanded set of meanings within the gallery. The nature and value of gold is apparent both in terms of its monetary worth and as one of the most efficient electrical conductors. Our attention is then drawn to the form and function of the bulbs; through the process of gilding, the bulbs' original use as conductors of electricity is rendered useless, even though their value is enhanced.

With *Glow* I wanted to make something beautiful and pure. The time and effort invested in the piece has resulted in an atmosphere, and a sense of quietness, that is greater than I anticipated. The bulbs' inanimate presence, reflecting a soft golden light in the gallery, offer the viewer a place to reflect. The composition is welcoming, contemplative and seductive.



*Glow* 2001  
gilded lightbulbs  
detail



*Glow* 2002  
gilded lightbulbs  
installed at Angel Row Gallery

right:  
*Finding the Golden Fly*  
gilded houseflies