

# BRILLIANT LIGHTS & LIGHTING

JANE  
PAVITT  
V&A  
CONTEMPORARY





#### **PLAYBOY LIGHT**

Acrylic, compact fluorescent bulb  
Héctor Serrano, self-production, UK  
2008



#### **TOP SECRET LIGHT**

Polyester film, nylon net, compact  
fluorescent bulb  
Héctor Serrano, self-production, UK  
2000

‘I’m not interested in lighting particularly, but in designing products that create reactions. Yet light is a magical thing to incorporate into an object. To do a lamp is easy – at least 50 per cent of the work has been done already, so all you need is to buy the cable, the fitting and the bulb.’

‘Doing a lamp’ yourself is the basis for the **PLAYBOY** light, a clear acrylic coat hanger with a light fitting, onto which you can hang your own clothes as a shade. Although the light is typically low tech, it is partly influenced by some work Serrano did for the design consultancy IDEO in 2001, on an investigation into intelligent fabrics. By day he worked with IDEO, testing fabrics that could take the incorporation of ‘smart’ technology and be used as clothing. At home, a broken light fitting that he had ‘repaired’ by using a piece of clothing as a shade gave him the idea for **PLAYBOY**.

Objects like these display the serendipitous element of the design process. When designers allow the associational power of objects to take hold, they can create things that go beyond function to engage our imaginations. The use of found objects and materials is an important part of that process in a technical, aesthetic way, as well as in a psychological way.