

Conserving the Future

Ongoing | Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice, Italy

The project *Conserving the Future* asks contemporary artists to relate to and dialogue with the spaces of the Fondazione, drawing inspiration for new expressions marked by a vital experimentation.

The American artist Joseph Kosuth's neon lights illuminate the palace façade.

An exponent of conceptual art, he has shaped the neon tubes to trace primordial words: Abstract lines, Forms of earth (crystals), Forms of water (waves), Forms of air (clouds), Organic forms (shells).

The installation totals twelve illuminated signs placed at different heights: this is *The Material of the Ornament*, 1997.

Kosuth was inspired by John Ruskin's *The Stones of Venice* (1851 - 1853). The classification of decorative architectural elements into categories devised by the English art critic thus becomes an ornament itself, activating unexpected relationships.