

# Joseph Kosuth

Ongoing | Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice, Italy

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.