



Joseph Kosuth (1945-)
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'ni apparence ni illusion' (*Neither Appearance Nor Illusion*), 2009

15 neon texts installed directly on the wall, Charles V Hall, Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

This large-scale work by Joseph Kosuth first opened as a temporary installation in the ancient moats of the Musée du Louvre's Sully Wing in 2009. Now inaugurated as a permanent installation, 'ni apparence, ni illusion' is located in the Charles V Hall and accessible via the Carrousel du Louvre galleries. Visitors to the Sully Wing may note the old well, which retains one element of the work's original incarnation.

The installation is comprised of fifteen neon elements on the stone walls of the medieval battlement. Playing on the complex relationships between history and archeology, the visitor is encouraged to complete the work themselves and rediscover the ancient underground passages of the palace.

Kosuth is known for the use of appropriation in his oeuvre, often borrowing citations from the canon of Western thought. For 'ni apparence, ni illusion' the artist, for the first time since 1979, appropriates his own writing, adopts the first-person pronoun and speaks to the viewer in his voice. The work contemplates Nietzsche's reversal of the metaphysical paradigm—which repositioned appearance, rather than truth or being, as the fundamental condition of existential experience—by reference and analogy. Kosuth's illuminated work ultimately considers the inscrutable nature of historical knowledge.

[Alvarez Gallery](#) is the sponsor for the exhibition of Joseph Kosuth's "Ni appearance ni Illusion"/ *Neither Appearance nor Illusion* at the Musée du Louvre, Paris.