

The idea and title for SIGNS came about through the work of Jan Tarasin and from reflections on his quest to find original signs with which to illustrate the world, objects and situations. He would place signs in certain spaces in his illustrations, and sometimes in his oil paintings; the signs and situations would then take on the character of symbolic spaces. This duality, along with that precise moment of when a sign becomes a symbol, have long interested me. It seemed interesting as to whether there is room for the symbol and the sign in contemporary art. I asked myself the question of the relevance of the symbol, and when a sign becomes a symbol for other artists.

So this was where I got my idea for the SIGNS exhibition, to which I have invited artists who exhibit at the gallery, artists who represent a range of artistic attitudes and strategies, who are linked by the quest for their own sign or by a reflection on its symbolic meaning. The exhibition features works by artists who invoke symbols and signs that have always been associated with visual culture – mandalas, labyrinths, animals, women's figures, rainbows and light as a symbolic and mystical element in a picture. The works are by artists who bring their own meaning to a particular everyday object, and thus raise it to the level of a sign, or their own symbol. These objects include envelopes, candles, images and pieces of railway, repeatedly processed. Frayed maps, unrecognisable cities, idols and figures made of toys – of childhood dreams. There will also be SIGNS of an unidentified, supernatural nature with an ambiguous effect and message, existing in mysterious spaces.

Ryszard Ługowski, curator