

signs and symbols

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – signs and symbols celebrates two-year anniversary by announcing representation of artists for the first time

NEW YORK, NY – Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Today is **signs and symbols's** anniversary! It has been exactly two years since we opened the gallery – two whirlwind, exhilarating, tumultuous and rewarding years.

Here's our year in review – we presented 11 exhibitions (nine at 102 Forsyth and two online at www.signsandsymbols.art) as well as 19 live performances and special events. We launched our first performance residency, became proud NADA members and received our first Artforum review in print. Artists danced, sang, played the violin, read about witches, recited new manifestos, wore seven designer suits, wore tutus, ate lemons, made tin foil hats, wrote poetry on the walls and a genie granted wishes. We followed our artists to Hudson, Arkansas and South Africa. We transformed the gallery into an immersive balloon-filled funhouse. We auctioned off artwork by our artists' children for charity. We even had a painting show! If you can believe that...

2020 certainly came with surprises. It's strange to celebrate our second birthday without a party and a cake, not to mention without any of our artists present. I wish more than anything that, instead of setting up a Zoom call for tonight with our artists, I could be popping open a bottle of champagne with everyone at the gallery!

Yet, as we enter our third year, I can't help but feel optimistic and energized. As some of you may know, I consider 3 to be a very lucky and special number – symbolizing Ulay, Vito Acconci and VALIE EXPORT, a trinity of performance art icons and the historical anchors of signs and symbols's curatorial program. I am grateful for the inspiration and guidance that these artists have given me, including the courage to finally sign a lease for signs and symbols. I even have the number 3 tattooed on my forearm. So with this intuition about the power of 3, I am excited to share some news about what's on our horizon for year 3...

I am thrilled to announce that signs and symbols will begin to represent artists – we feel stronger than ever and we are ready to take this next step. I am so pleased to **announce gallery representation of Jen DeNike, Ornella Fieres and Tony Orrico**. In June 2018, we had the honor of presenting Ornella's first US solo exhibition. In January 2019, Tony debuted a new series of performed sculptures, after creating several works on-site over the holidays. Then in February 2019, we premiered the first act of Jen DeNike's new ballet *Crystal Cut Levitation*. It has simply been a dream to work alongside these artists, to develop new projects together and watch them continue to grow. All three of them have been generous supporters not only of the gallery but of each other, and at this time it feels especially important to stand by our artists and announce our solidarity.

I am also thrilled to **announce the release of a special artwork edition today**, on the occasion of our second birthday: [Jen DeNike's *Visions of the Daughters \(seeking flowers\)*](#). This photographic print in a

limited edition of 20 is the latest in our series of special initiatives on our online shop, which also includes our [#signsandsymbolspostcard project](#). We were thrilled to be featured in [Vogue Italia](#) this week about our inspiration behind these postcards, which we see as an opportunity for interpersonal connection via snail mail and an offering of hope. I would love for you to participate by purchasing a \$35 postcard or collecting a special edition, and once you receive your postcard, we welcome you to reply back to the artist and strike up a socially-distanced exchange. Each postcard and special edition supports the gallery and our artists – and our mission of championing performance and time-based media – while our physical space remains closed, ensuring future exhibition and performance space for our artists.

Our online video exhibitions continue, with Broomberg & Chanarin's [The Bureaucracy of Angels](#) opening tomorrow on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00pm. In this video work, South African artist duo Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin bear witness to the demolition of 100 migrant boats in Sicily in the winter of 2016. Next up in our video series will be Tony Orrico, Michelle Handelman and Rachel Libeskind. I hope you will be able to 'visit' us online this spring, from wherever you may be around the world.

When I set out to establish a permanent space for signs and symbols, one of my primary missions was to nurture a community around performance and time-based media. Today, taking a step back and looking at the journey behind us and what we have accomplished in two years, I am so grateful for what we have all built together – friends, family, strangers, artists, writers, performers, curators, collectors. signs and symbols is truly a collective, and I thank everyone who has contributed to our ongoing dialogue and creative connections. There is more to be done and we have ambitious plans for performance, but tonight we celebrate.

I look forward to seeing you all as soon as we safely can, and I am eager for the day we can gather again. Until then, please join me in this virtual toast – here's to year 3, here's to our artists and here's to community!

—Mitra Khorasheh