



School: School of Art

Researcher: Rachel Withers

Project Title: *Roman Signer's Library of Marvels*

UOA: 32: Art and Design

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
Autumn 2006	<p>Interviews for <i>Roman Signer: Collector's Choice Vol 7</i> (Dumont, 2007, a book accompanying survey show <i>Roman Signer Werke aus der Friedrich Christian Flick Collection</i> at the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin) were largely conducted in Roman Signer's library.</p> <p>At this point Signer's book collection, within its custom-built room, formed a backdrop to the preparation of the book not an object of study. The realisation that this could form an important focus for research and conversation formed a couple of years later.</p>
August 2011	<p>Visit to the Signers' home to discuss and develop the library project alongside other work relating to other Signer texts and publications. First scans of illustrations.</p>
Aug 2011 onward	<p>Developing skills using Photoshop and digital print (Wimbledon College of Art) to explore scans made in August 2011.</p>
March 2012	<p>A week's visit exploring books, scanning images and discussing the collection and its importance to Signer. Portfolio of digital prints discussed along with possibilities for dissemination or display.</p>
February and June 2013	<p>Further visits to the library alongside other work relating to other Signer texts and publications.</p>
Summer 2014	<p>Construction of prototype display table for prints – pictures sent to Signer.</p>

January 2015	Discussion and agreement over possibility of creating display at Rose Lipman library, Hackney, to coincide with March 4 – May 31 2015 installation of <i>Slow Movement</i> at the Curve Space, Barbican Centre. Initial discussions with curators of <i>Slow Movement</i> combined development of the essay for <i>Slow Movement</i> catalogue with plans for <i>Roman Signer's Library of Marvels</i> (Fast Version) at Rose Lipman building. Staircase location involved alternative exhibition strategy – 'tabletop' displays became pictures for installation on library walls. Vinyl wallpaper concept developed to unify and activate the installation.
January - February 2015	Construction of framed displays, design of wallpapers, illustrated booklet written and printed, short programme of events scheduled (including PV, RW tour of show, omnibus screening of Signer's Super-8 films in the Rose Lipman Building screening space). Installation of show at end February.
4 March - 21 May 2015	<i>Roman Signer's Library of Marvels</i> exhibition and programme of events at The Rose Lipman Building, London.
March - May 2015	Publication of Roman Signer <i>Slow Movement</i> exhibition catalogue (Ridinghouse and Barbican Art Gallery, 2015), including essay by Rachel Withers, to accompany Signer's exhibition at the Barbican, London (4 March – 31 May, 2015). Accompanying installation views, related work and an interview with the artist by David Signer, an essay by Rachel Withers explores the multiple facets of his innovative practice through his on-going interest in the kayak.
May 2015 - Sept 2015	Rose Lipman decision to let installation remain in place until programme of future installations.
24 June 2015	Royal College of Art event. Rachel Withers in conversation with Roman Signer. https://vimeo.com/131637528
16 September 2015	Talk by Withers at Dundee Contemporary Arts. Withers gave an overview of Signer's work and described her research on his personal library. https://www.dca.org.uk/whats-on/event/rachel-withers-on-roman-signer
2015 - 2019	Further scans and discussion of installation in course of other visits to the Signers.

April 2016	<p>Publication of Withers, R (2016) 'Bringing things down to Earth.' In: Giusti, L, ed. <i>Roman Signer : a step towards the sea = un passo verso il mare</i>. Humboldt Books, Milan, pp. 121-135. ISBN 9788899385132</p> <p>An essay for the book publication accompanying Roman Signer's solo exhibition at the Man Museum, Nuoro, Sardinia, April 22 - July 3 2016. The essay discusses themes of work and travel in relation to Roman Signer's Super-8 films.</p>
1 January 2019	Text by Withers is published in Roman Signer: <i>Werkubersicht / Works 2002-2018</i> by Roman Signer (Author, Artist), Alexandra Signer (Editor), Peter Zimmermann (Editor) (Germany: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König [Bilingual edition]. 1 Jan. 2019).
October 2019	Invitation from St. Gallen Amt für Kultur to install <i>Library of Marvels</i> in St. Gallen and subsequently 8. Salon in Hamburg in 2020
November 22 - 25, 2019	St. Gallen visit to view and select venue. Exhibition hall at Vadiana Cantonal Library selected. Prospective date for St. Gallen exhibition May 2020. Discussion of contents and form of the exhibition.
March 2020	Review of exhibition plans in light of Covid-19 lockdown. Exhibition date put back to later July. Decision to develop 'leporello' installation form to allow for RW development of artwork under lockdown and independent building of display system in St. Gallen. Artwork mailed and installed on site by Swiss technical team.
March - June	Simultaneous work on artwork and new catalogue. Artwork sent by DHL in June & early July.
17 July - 23 August	<i>Library of Marvels (Expanding Version)</i> opens in St. Gallen, accompanied by an events programme designed and run by Ursula Badrutt.
17 July 2020	Exhibition preview with talks by Ursula Badrutt and Paul Rechsteiner, and a commentary by Roman Signer.
19 July 2020	'The Aesthetics of Drones in Art' - a talk at the St. Gallen exhibition by Kathrin Maurer, Professor of German Studies at the South Danish University.
6 August 2020	'Making Air Visible' - a talk at the St. Gallen exhibition by Julia Lütolf and Roman Früh of the Materials archive and art library of the Sitterwerk, St Gallen.
20 August 2020	'Atomic Beauty, Radioactive Shock' – a talk at the St. Gallen exhibition by architect Peter Hubacher.
21 August 2020	Tour of the St. Gallen Exhibition by Ursula Badrutt and Rachel Withers.

23 August 2020	<p>'Why are you so interested in infectious diseases?' - a conversation between Scientist and author Anna Bischofberger and art theorist and filmmaker Andrea Meier at the St. Gallen exhibition.</p> <p>Screening of Picture of Light (1994) by Peter Mettler.</p>
27 August 2020	<p>Omnicolour Artist Award proposal to create a leporello to raise funds for Book Aid International's campaign to restock the University Library of Mosul, destroyed by ISIS in 2015.</p>
8 Sept - 10 October	<p><i>Library of Marvels (Expanding Version)</i> opens at 8 Salon, Hamburg.</p>