

IP-02.04
SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS
STATUS: ACTIVE



MARCH 18TH 2026

BRYTON GORE / HOUSE OF GORE STUDIO ARCHIVE

ISSUED BY: BRYTON GORE / HOUSE OF GORE
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(V.1)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
<u>DEFINITION</u>	3.
<u>CORE FUNCTION</u>	4
<u>PURPOSE</u>	5.
<u>SYMBOL FORMATION</u>	6.
<u>TYPES OF SYMBOLS</u>	7-10
• <u>1. STRUCTURAL SYMBOLS</u>	
• <u>2. ENVIRONMENTAL SYMBOLS</u>	
• <u>3. IDENTITY SYMBOLS</u>	
• <u>4. OBJECT-BASED SYMBOLS</u>	
<u>SYSTEM BEHAVIOUR</u>	11
<u>INTERPRETATION</u>	12
<u>RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE</u>	13
<u>RELATION TO VISUAL LANGUAGE</u>	14
<u>RELATION TO PLATES METHOD</u>	15
<u>EVOLUTION</u>	16
<u>DISTINCTION</u>	17
<u>CLOSING</u>	18

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IP-02.04 — SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS

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DEFINITION

Symbolic Systems define how the studio constructs, organises, and applies symbols within its work.

Symbols are not decorative.

They are structured elements used to translate complex subjects, ideas, and conditions into clear visual form.

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CORE PRINCIPLE

The symbolic system operates by:

- observing subjects, ideas, and behaviours
- identifying underlying patterns
- translating those patterns into simplified visual forms

These forms become symbols.

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PURPOSE

Symbols are used to:

- condense complexity
- communicate structure
- create recognition
- anchor meaning within a system

They allow abstract or unstable concepts to be:

made visible, stable, and readable.

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SYMBOL FORMATION

Symbols are formed through:

- observation
- reduction
- distortion
- repetition

The process removes unnecessary detail while retaining structural meaning.

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TYPES OF SYMBOLS

The studio develops multiple categories of symbols, including:

1. Structural Symbols

Represent systems, hierarchy, or control
(e.g. arrows, directional forms, framing devices)

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2. Environmental Symbols

Represent conditions such as:

- exposure
- isolation
- pressure
- space

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3. Identity Symbols

Represent:

- individuals
- roles
- constructed identities

These may be abstracted or distorted.

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4. Object-Based Symbols

Everyday or constructed objects redefined as symbolic carriers.

They are repositioned to hold meaning beyond function.

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SYSTEM BEHAVIOUR

Symbols do not exist in isolation.

They operate within systems where:

- meaning is influenced by placement
- relationships between symbols create structure
- repetition builds recognition

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INTERPRETATION

The symbolic system does not assign fixed meaning to the viewer.

Instead:

- symbols are presented in controlled form
- viewers interpret based on their own perception
- meaning is formed through interaction

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RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE

Symbols function through:

- recognition
- projection
- association

Viewers may:

- identify with the symbol
- assign personal meaning
- see themselves reflected within the system

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RELATION TO VISUAL LANGUAGE

Symbols are constructed using the GORE Visual Language.

This ensures:

- consistency in form
- controlled distortion
- recognisable structure

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RELATION TO PLATES METHOD

Symbols are developed, tested, and refined through the Plates Method.

Each plate may:

- introduce a symbol
- evolve an existing one
- reposition meaning

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EVOLUTION

The symbolic system is not fixed.

It evolves through:

- ongoing observation
- new subjects and studies
- audience interaction and response

Symbols are refined over time.

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DISTINCTION

The symbolic system differs from decorative or illustrative approaches:

- symbols are derived from observation, not invention alone
- they function within systems, not as isolated graphics
- they prioritise meaning over aesthetics

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CLOSING:

Symbolic Systems define how meaning is constructed within the studio's work.

They translate complex subjects into structured visual forms that allow recognition, interpretation, and clarity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 18, 2026



Signature:

Name: Bryton Ursula Gore
Title/Capacity: Individual Owner or
Sole Proprietor
Date: 18/03/2026