Term: Icon

Quote: An Icon is a sign which refers to the Object that it denotes merely by virtue of characters of its own and which it possesses, just the same, whether any such Object actually exists or not. It is true that unless there really is such an Object, the Icon does not act [as] a sign; but this has nothing to do with its character as a sign. Anything whatever, be it quality, existent individual, or law, is an icon of anything, in so far as it is like that thing and used as a sign of it.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1903). Syllabus: Nomenclature and Division of Triadic Relations, as far as they are determined. MS [R] 540.

References: EP 2:291

Date of Quote: 1903