

*ИДЕКЛ' ОБАСГЕ*

*INVERT, ORACLE*

David Cannon Dashiell



Ethan J. Wagner, Publisher  
San Francisco



*For Barry*

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*PREFACE*

For many years I have been interested in the problems and possibilities of creating a work that deals with the nature of autobiography while avoiding the idioms of self-portraiture and linear narrative. Indeed, the experience of memory is never linear, and self-image has little to do with one's reflection in a mirror.

In 1987, while recuperating from an accident and unable to work, I found myself thumbing through the instruction book for a deck of Tarot cards. I was intrigued with the methodical way in which this "oracle" divided up the possible range of human experience, and although it was geared towards a divination of the future, I found it to be a useful structure for the ordering of an autobiographical project.

*Invert, Oracle* was conceived as an installation consisting of paintings, drawings and texts. The installation is an enclosed room, approximately sixteen feet by sixteen feet and fourteen feet high, taking its general visual cues from both a fortune-teller's tent and a mausoleum. On the exterior of the installation are two "tent flaps" that act as both entrance and explanation of the objects inside. On this panel are 78 text panels, each pairing definitions of the individual Tarot cards with reminiscences generated by these definitions.



The interior of the installation is divided into three sections. The Major Arcana of the Tarot, twenty-two cards in all, was divided into masculine and feminine aspects, ten of them for panels regarding memories of my father, (the large paintings on doors suspended from the ceiling, together entitled *Father*), and twelve for memories of my mother (the sections of the circular table, entitled *Mother*). The Minor Arcana, fifty-six cards in all, is used for autobiographical memories, and is represented by the fifty-six small circular drawings (jointly entitled *Autobiography*) scattered on the interior walls of the installation.

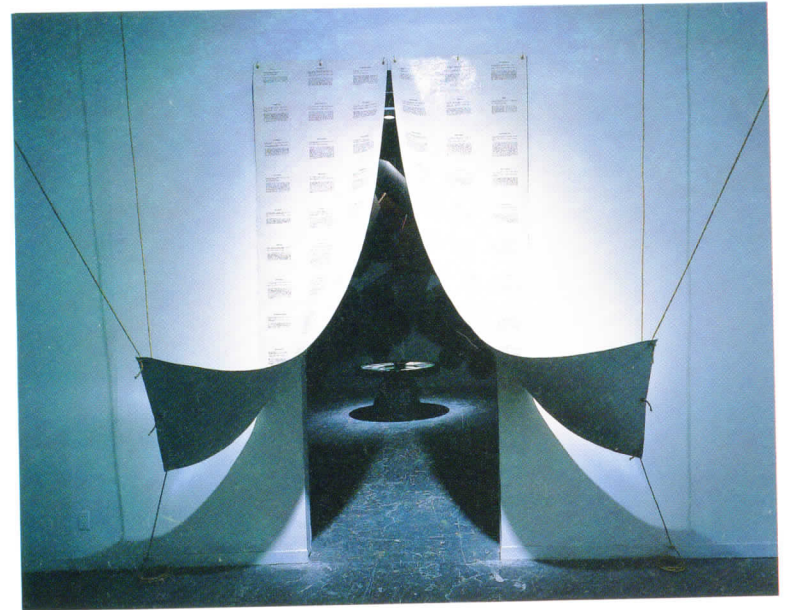
This catalog is intended as both a record of the installation and as a key to the relationships between its images and texts. As in any record of a place or event, there is a trade-off between the ease of assimilation this volume represents and the experience of the work. As a reference to the experience of being in the installation, I have included a series of photographs of the viewer's progress through the space. The other major difference between this record and the installation is the spatial separation of language and image. Each text in this book accompanies a corresponding image, enabling the reader to more easily make visual/verbal connections, in opposition to the installation itself, where the two have been deliberately separated.

- David Cannon Dashiell

## *INVERT, ORACLE*

## Plate I

Exterior view of installation showing the entry panels with a view towards *Mother* in the interior.



## Plate II

View of installation interior showing location of *Father* above, *Mother* below, and *Autobiography* on the walls.



### Plate III

Detail of installation interior showing suspension arrangement of *Father*, with individual panels of *Autobiography* in the background.







THE MAJOR ARCANA

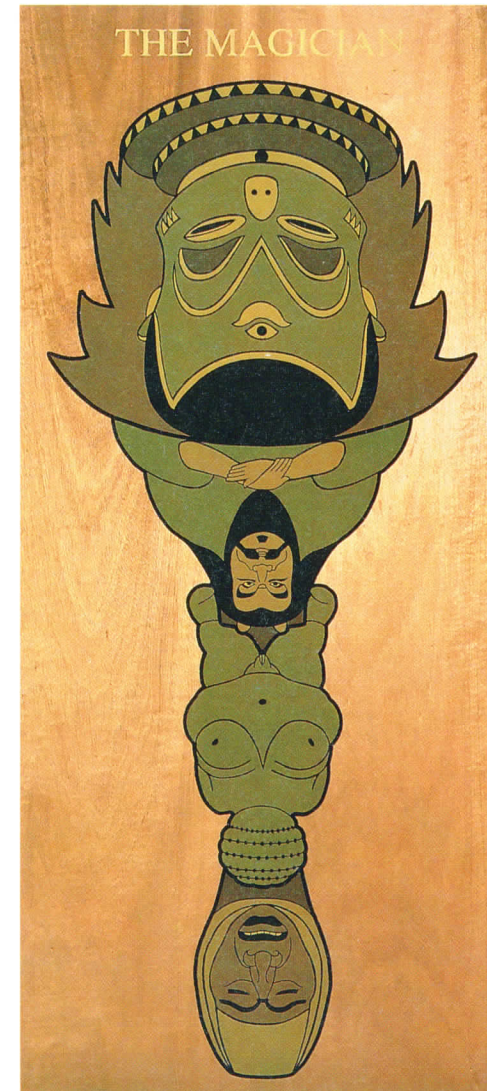
*FATHER and MOTHER*

## THE MAGICIAN

Denotes the ability to translate ideas into action, to use psychic powers to advantage; skill, diplomacy, self-confidence.

**Reverse:** The use of power for destructive ends. Bad luck.

*When my father retired, he took my brother and me, along with a crony of his, to Florida to open a trinket shop selling fake Alaskan and Polynesian artifacts as jewelry. The shop failed miserably. Looking back at this episode, I realized that my father had the same attitude towards tourists as he had toward orientals and third world people in general. His attitudes had probably been tolerated in Asia because of his American money and influence, but failed in this case because his role was reversed - he was the one being patronized.*



## THE EMPEROR

Authority. One who is master of his emotions; active intelligence able to realize ideas.

**Reverse:** Immaturity. Tendency to be glib. Self-control limited.

*Early in my father's career, he was instrumental in the development of photogrammetry, a technique for creating three-dimensional maps. His expertise in this area made him invaluable to the intelligence industry during World War Two. Later in his life, he began to understand the moral contradictions involved in using his skills for the benefit of a spy network. His pride of covert career turned to hidden shame, and he instead began to extol the virtues of his overt craft.*



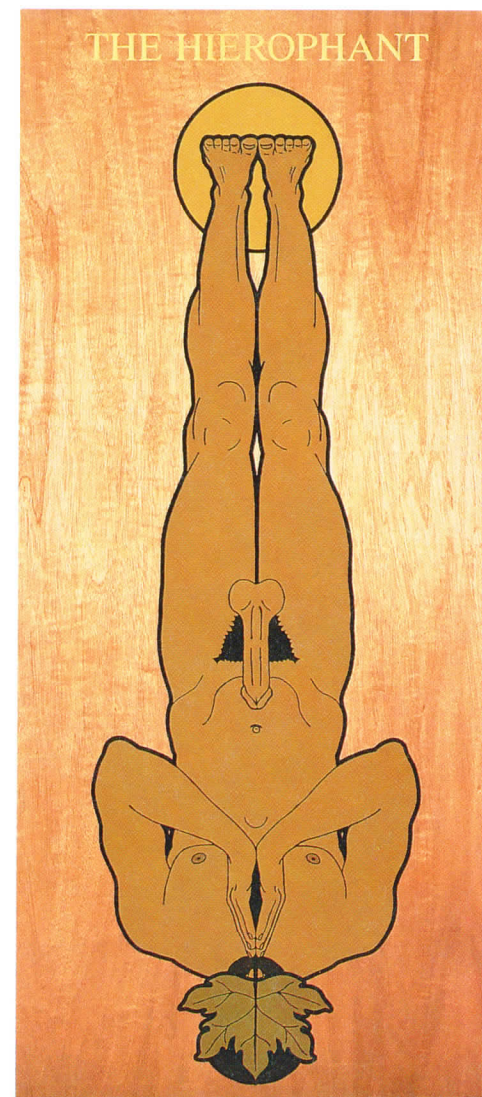


## THE HIEROPHANT

One who leads one away from too-worldly concerns. A spiritual nature is implied. Possibility of marriage or alliance of some kind.

**Reverse:** Unorthodoxy, openness to new ideas, unconventionality.

*A week after my mother died, my father's mother died as well. The week after that, my father was told he had terminal cancer. Although he had been an off-and-on churchgoer at various periods in his life, he quickly became irrational about it, going to faith healers and others every day of the week. He was aided in this by a new wife (his hospital's medical records librarian), who led him away from his sons' influence and eventually drove me away permanently. To me, his piety and new wife were not reflections of a new-found religious strength, but acts of self-indulgence generated by his fear of death.*

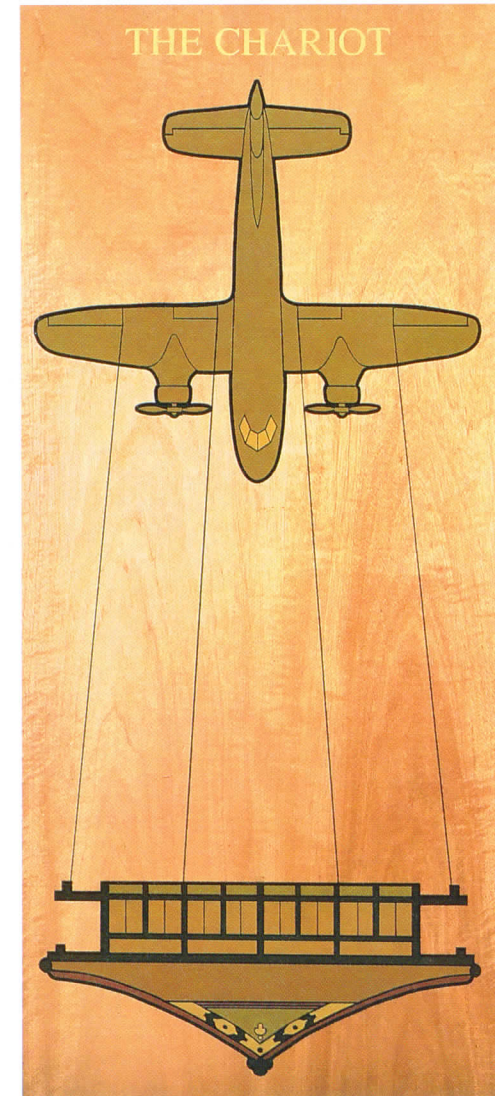


## THE CHARIOT

Control over tension of opposites. Triumph over all difficulties through perseverance; a balanced life; success.

**Reverse:** Failure in carrying out a project, riot, litigation.

*When my father's career required him to move, it almost always meant he would arrange for the family to go with him. I once thought my father's devotion to his career supported our family's security in the Orient, but now realize that it was this icon of family that gave meaning to his life and his drive to continue working.*





## STRENGTH

Courage, magnanimity, persistence, patience, spiritual power. Able to offset any bad luck in surrounding cards.

**Reverse:** Weakness, possible loss of honor, discord.

*One day my father tried to beat me for a reason he would not, or could not, convey to me. He became furious, whipping me in anger. His loss of temper for no apparant reason suddenly seemed hilarious to me, so I started laughing - causing him to stop abruptly. He immediately left the room, sobbing uncontrollably. In this incident, my father's strength came from both his role and the withholding of information, which I had innocently trangedressed. He never punished me again, physically.*



## THE HERMIT

Withdrawal; meditation on meaning of life; predicts a meeting with one who will counsel the seeker or inspire him.

**Reverse:** Denotes an inability or refusal to mature, to deepen one's wisdom with one's years.

*When my father was undergoing tests for cancer (unknown to me), he also took up a computer correspondence course, using a computer at the hospital as his teaching aid. He abandoned the course when he discovered from his doctor that the diagnosis was positive. While he was using technology to allay his fears of death, technology was confirming them. Although he had been a scientist most of his life, science and technology suddenly became ominous signs of his own mortality.*





## THE HANGED MAN

One must die to the social order to dispense justice or to continue on one's path of growth. Can denote spirituality, intuition, self-sacrifice.

**Reverse:** Concentration on one's self; egoist; opposed to spiritual influence.

*In 1968, the war in Vietnam was escalating, and my father realized he would have to send the family away from Thailand. I was sent to his home town in Oregon, and my brother was taken to stay with cousins in another small town further south. Our mother, who was seriously ill by this time, returned with my father and was placed in a hospital. After a while, he realized it was a mistake separating the family by transplanting his two sons to small-town America, so he moved us off, first to Alaska, and eventually to Florida. Although his choice in moving us around seemed irrational to me at the time, I soon learned to understand it as an affirmation of his family spirit. He chose to keep us together, but nomadic, in spite of our need to be secure in troubled times.*



## THE DEVIL

Lack of essential humanity; emphasis on the material and carnal to the detriment of others. Destructive force.

**Reverse:** Possibility of spiritual understanding; tendency to vacillation, pettiness.

*When I was going through puberty, my father took an inordinate interest in my physical development. In the summer after my 13th birthday, I was getting ready for summer camp one day and had just taken a shower before leaving. He came into the bathroom to "inspect" me, got excited and disturbed when he saw I was growing body hair, and retrieved his electric shaver with which he proceeded to forcibly shave my armpits and crotch to stubble in spite of my squirming and protests. I began to see his actions as an attempt to keep me a child, postponing my independence and maturation, and as an allowable outgrowth of his forbidden sexual urges.*





## THE TOWER

Unforeseen catastrophe, disruption of one's style of life or way of thinking which may be followed by enlightenment.

**Reverse:** Tyranny, threats to one's freedom. The same as above in lesser degree.

*After I moved away from home, my father got involved with a group of Christian fundamentalists with a "deprogramming" center, where incorrigible youths were sent, eventually emerging with shaved heads, singing Christmas carols. After depositing my brother in this camp, he came for me. When he took me there, I feigned being high on drugs, knowing that they could not legally intern me "voluntarily" in that state, and then talked my father into returning me to my apartment. I never went back. Within the next few months, the camp was shut down by the authorities and my father came to his senses, realizing he had been victimized by the fundamentalists.*



## THE SUN

Contentment, liberation, attainment of personal or business goals.

**Reverse:** Uncertainty of future plans; loss of something of value.

*As my father lay dying, he called me home from college in California to visit him on his deathbed. When he saw I had returned to him, his condition improved and he was removed from intensive care. After a week, I assumed his imminent death was a false alarm and an excuse to see me, so I returned to California. When I got back to my dorm room he called on the telephone, dying, and gasped "the Lord is in His Holy Temple". These were his final words — he died moments later. Whether or not my father was primarily focused on his own death, it seemed to me at the time as if he was more concerned with status and having the final word with me one last time.*



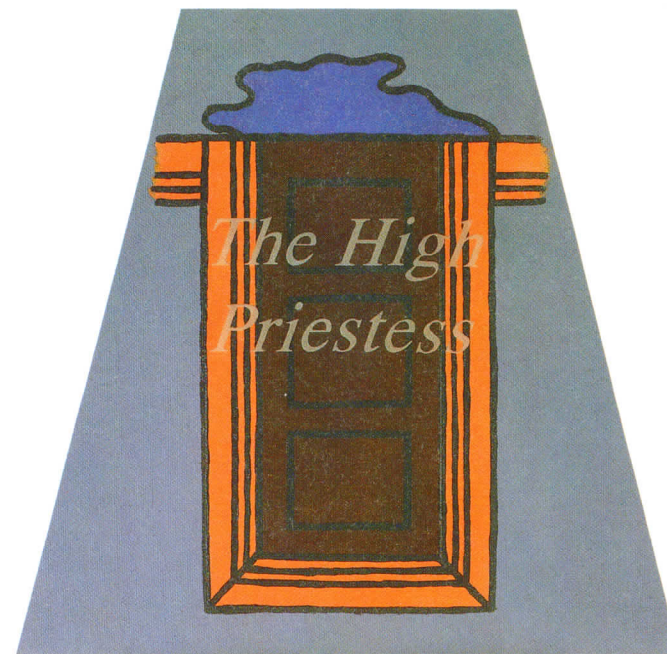


## THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Denotes the feminine principle of love and relatedness; the ideal wife and mother, supportive of those she loves; mystery, wisdom, unrevealed influences at work.

**Reverse:** Indicates superficial qualities, physical passion divorced from love.

*When my father returned home from long trips, he and my mother would lock themselves in the bathroom for hours at a time. This desire for intimacy and privacy appeared to me as both exclusive and forbidden. I finally got up the nerve to go in the bathroom once when they forgot to lock the door and discovered them having sex, although I was too young to understand what was happening at the time.*

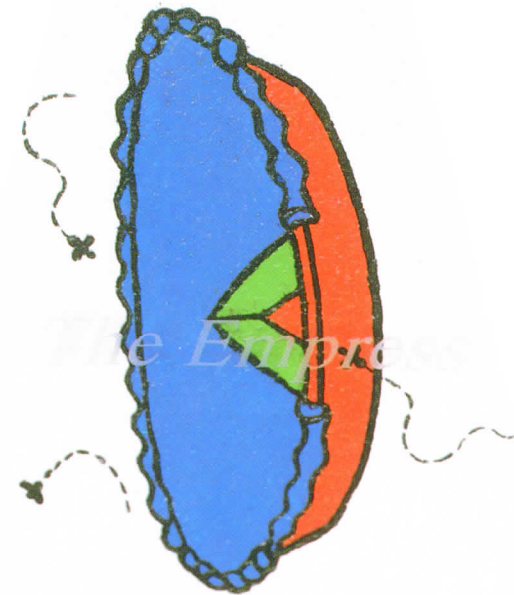


## THE EMPRESS

Fertility in body or mind, initiative, action, bountiful harvest. Good luck.

**Reverse:** Sterility, wastefulness of resources, indecision, disruption of life at home or in society.

*Because her senses of taste and sight (among others) were failing her when my mother's fatal illness began to manifest itself, she accidentally baked a pie using salt instead of sugar. In order to please her and prevent her from recognizing the extent of her illness, I pretended to enjoy the piece she offered me. The rest of the pie was never eaten, and my mother soon realized why. As the pie had been destroyed by the loss of her sensual acuity, I had destroyed a familiar ritual between mother and son by my deceit.*

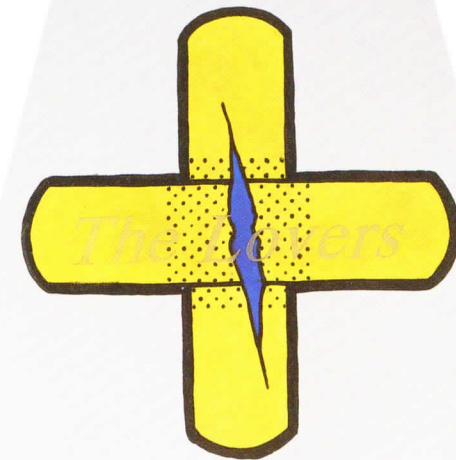


## THE LOVERS

Conflict between different attractions and the necessity of choice which means responsibility. Beauty, inner harmony.

**Reverse:** Quarrels; frustration of romance or marriage; failure.

*My mother, with few interests outside of family, craved an environment in which she could be nurturing. When my father was away on assignment and my brother and I were in school, she became a volunteer nurse. Looking back, her altruistic efforts seemed like strategies to overcome a lack of self-worth.*

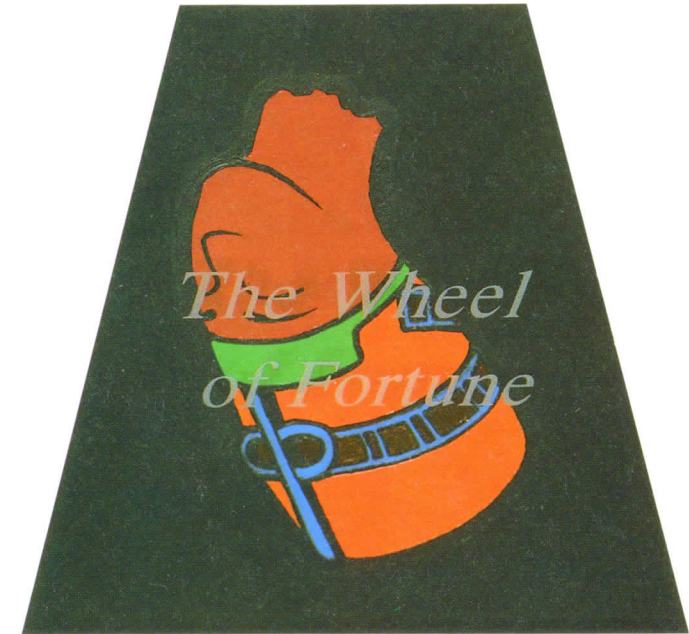


## THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The ups and downs of life, constant change.  
One must find the still center for tranquillity.

**Reverse:** The quality of your involvement will  
be the measure of your reward.

*As my mother's illness progressed, her senses of sight, hearing, balance, touch, smell and taste slowly began to fail. I first truly understood the depth of this when I watched her one day, sitting calm and motionless at the kitchen table during an earthquake. It was as if she was in a bondage of sensory deprivation without visible restraint.*





## JUSTICE

Balance, sense of proportion in one's self and life; in another sense the card means we are held accountable for our actions.

**Reverse:** Predicts lawlessness, injustice, lack of balance. If the card is near the Hanged Man, mercy rather than severity should be used.

*My first experience with my mother's helplessness came after she tripped and fell in a piano store, breaking her hip. My father brought her home from the hospital and put her in a bed in the living room of our two story house, where she stayed for the next three months. This event marked the end of my mother's ability to act as a nurturing parent. I soon began to react in an ambiguous manner towards her because of her new contrary status (in my eyes) as a pseudo-infant.*



## DEATH

Death, rebirth, generally in areas of one's consciousness. Great change in one's life.

**Reverse:** Stagnation, tendency to lethargy.

*During the latter period of my mother's life, she would sit all day on the front porch of our house in Bangkok, Thailand, drinking ice coffee, letting ants crawl up her legs, oblivious to them because of the advanced stage of her disease. Despite nourishment, care and attention from our servants, my mother's condition began to decay. The ministrations she was given by family and servants, while necessary and kind, were mostly unnoticed, and, like the activities of the ants, eventually became as flat and programmed as instinct.*



## TEMPERANCE

Mature adaptation to whatever life offers; individualized existence.

**Reverse:** Conflicting interests in business or personal life; unfortunate combinations.

*My mother's greatest talent was her patient love, waiting for me after a lesson, or waiting months, sometimes years, for my father to return from an assignment. When I think back on other times, when the family was together, I remember her silently smoking a cigarette, waiting for her senses to fail completely.*

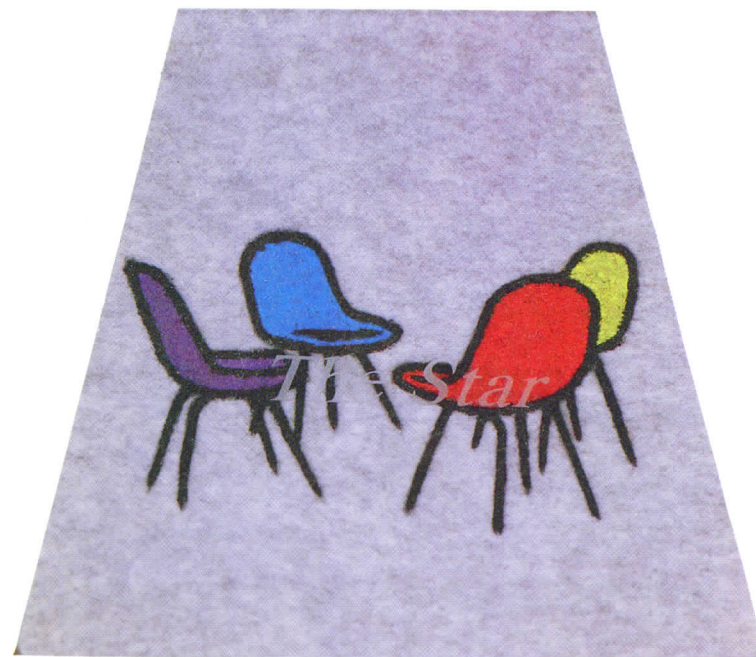


## THE STAR

Inspiration. A glimpse of a transcendent way of life. Good health.

**Reverse:** Illness, pessimism, haughtiness.

*When my mother's illness reached a critical phase, she was temporarily put into a mental hospital for tests to find out if the nature of her illness was psychosomatic. When we went to see her, she appeared to be like the other patients, drugged and depressed, until she discovered her family had come to visit. Thereafter, she was lively and animated, and the scene reminded me of how the family was when we were at home. The memory of us together at the asylum, while a reminder of wholeness for my mother, was for me an affirmation of her illness. We were together, but home was gone.*



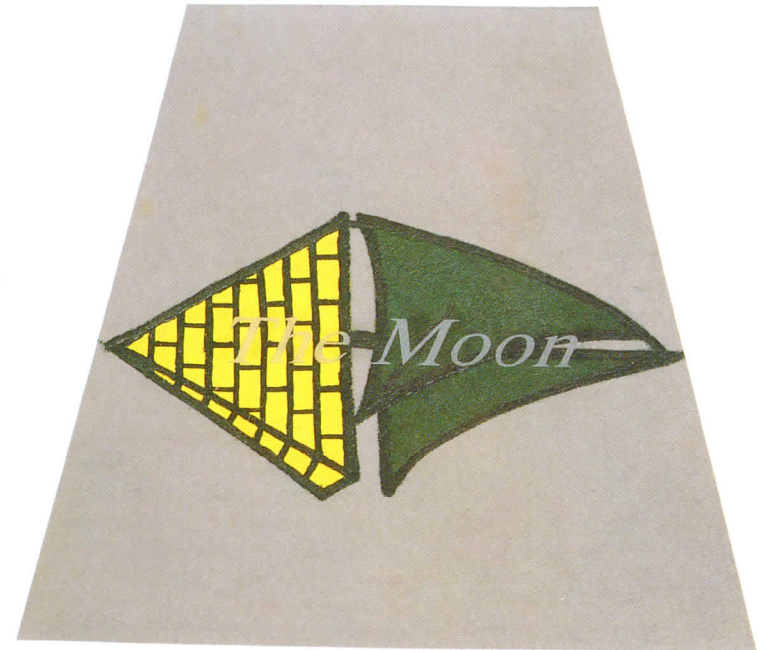


## THE MOON

A yearning for fulfillment. Unforeseen perils; threatening situation, possibly to loved ones. Psychic forces.

**Reverse:** Peace will come after a difficult period.

*The first great crisis of my mother's disease came one day when she was found by my younger brother on the living room floor in a coma, a state in which she remained for the next two weeks. After the coma, she was to remain a semi-invalid for the rest of her life, sleeping most of the day, with only occasional periods of lucidity. While knowing her new state allowed her peace and escape, giving the family respite from the intense caring she needed, I was nonetheless distressed by her condition. It was a living death we had to deal with constantly, as if we were taking a corpse with us wherever we went.*



## JUDGMENT

Growing awareness; a shift in personal consciousness toward union with the universal.

**Reverse:** Threat to physical health, disillusionment, separation, loss of worldly goods.

*During my early childhood, my mother first became aware that she might be losing her faculties. During this agitated period, she caught me in the bathroom playing with my feces in the toilet. She punished me by forcing me to rub them in my face, and then forcibly scrubbed my face under a hot faucet, cursing at me the entire time. This incident hovers between comedy and tragedy in my mind; it is certainly the only one I can recollect in which my mother was violent towards me. Instead of affecting me as some kind of negative toilet training, I later conceived of it as my mother's violence towards nature in deference to her fear of the disease that was soon to overtake her.*



## THE WORLD

Reward, completion, cosmic consciousness;  
also, change, travel.

**Reverse:** Cramped vision; fear of change;  
stagnation.

*My mother was eventually put into a rest home in my father's home town in Oregon, where my father had sent me to stay with family. Her good days were rare, and on my daily after-school trips to visit her, I usually found her asleep. The last time I spoke to her, however, she was lucid, sitting in a chair by the window in a dressing gown, attempting to look at a magazine. I let her know it was her eldest son visiting her, and for the next hour she was whole again, telling me stories of my childhood. She cried when I left, and although I saw her after that, she was never aware of me again. She died at the end of that year, after I had moved away.*





## THE FOOL

Denotes the positive inner forces which influence an individual in his choices.

**Reverse:** The choice made is likely to be foolish.

*When I was young, my mother fostered my creative instincts against my father's wishes. What he considered to be a waste of time and money gave purpose to my mother's otherwise mundane life, and became a useful code of behavior for an irrational child.*



THE MINOR ARCANA

*AUTOBIOGRAPHY*

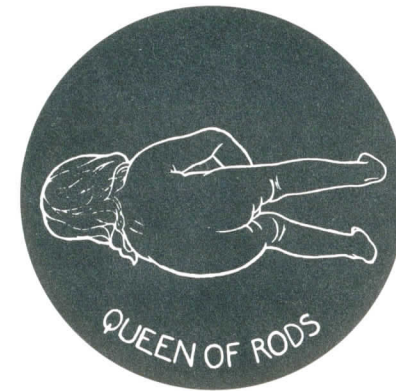


### KING OF RODS

A man of noble character — honest, loyal, conscientious and just. Generally married, often a countryman.

**Reverse:** Unyielding in judgments; strict but tolerant. Advice should be considered.

*I was attracted to my anthropology teacher in college, and although he was married and suspected the sexual nature of my attraction to him, he had no qualms about our close friendship. I eventually found it difficult to be near him, as his easygoing physicality became a test of my unspoken desire. He eventually told me he understood the nature of my disturbance and offered his body as a token of friendship.*



### QUEEN OF RODS

A warm, honorable woman, devoted to her family and loyal to her friends. Card may also signify some success in business.

**Reverse:** Practical and careful with money, obliging. Can mean jealousy, opposition, deceit or infidelity if the nearby cards tend toward similar meanings.

*I knew a woman who was gregarious and social, having dinner parties and social events at her home with other artists. However, our friendship faded out until one day a year later she called to invite me to an auction. I was glad to see her again, but this renewal of our old friendship was both awkward and short-lived when I realized that the invitation was only so that she could have an escort to an event in which her own work was being auctioned. She lost interest in the auction and me once the work had sold, and we left early, in a mutually embarrassed silence.*





### KNIGHT OF RODS

A young man on the go, attractive to women, capable of creating dissension in his wake. May indicate change of residence, travel, departure.

**Reverse:** Conflict, division in emotional or business life.

*In Florida, after I had left home and was in my first year of college, I shared an apartment with my best friend from high school. Although we had both been serious about art, he soon gave up ideas about it and became a gardener for a rich couple in Palm Beach, began to have an affair with the owner's wife, and started drinking and taking drugs heavily. Late one night, after I returned to the apartment from working at my night job, I found the entire place torn apart with the doors left open, and quaaludes scattered about the floor. In anger and disgust, I gathered up all my belongings that night, moved in with another friend, and never saw him again.*

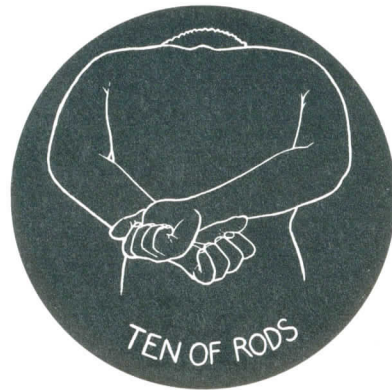


### PAGE OF RODS

A young man, bearer of messages, an envoy, faithful lover. May represent family intelligence.

**Reverse:** Bad news, indecision, instability.

*My first boyfriend, a rich German kid who was a student in Los Angeles, told me he had to move home because of a death in the family. We gave up hope of ever seeing each other again, and finally resigned ourselves to a permanent end to our relationship. A month later, however, he called and said he was coming back, and gave me his phone number so we could keep in touch when he returned to America. I was in the process of moving from one apartment to another at the time, so I was unable to give him my number. One day, as I was running to catch a bus in the rain, I dropped my address book, and lost touch with him permanently.*



### TEN OF RODS

A sense of oppression coupled with some kind of success; guilt feelings, doubt.

**Reverse:** Conflict of opposites, difficulties, intrigue.

*The day I received my Master's degree, I was excited and anticipated the day's events. My friends and I drank and partied before the ceremonies, and I enjoyed the graduation itself along with its attendant irreverence. That evening I was left alone as everyone left for private celebrations with their families and lovers. Because I was without funds, I had to return home, cursing my poverty, my sexual closetedness and my new-found solitude. I attempted to masturbate that night, but ended up crying for hours in a state of self-pity and loathing.*



### NINE OF RODS

Inner strength crystallized by opposition.

**Reverse:** Distress, obstacles, adversity.

*After working as an architectural designer in Los Angeles, I accepted an offer to work with a gay interior designer in Santa Cruz. He flew me and my belongings north and found me a house to share with another gay man in town. After a few days of work together, he made a sexual overture towards me which I vehemently declined. Later that week, he hired a model for his private scopophilic pleasure, afterwards inviting my roommate and me to dinner. After the meal, the model invited me home with him. When I returned to the office the next day, I was fired on the spot. A few weeks later, my roommate took my place at the firm and told me I had to move out. I suddenly found myself in a strange town with no friends, no job, no money and no way to leave.*



### EIGHT OF RODS

Momentum toward desired end. Great expectations, haste. May also denote the arrows of love.

**Reverse:** Guilt, jealousy, internal or domestic disputes.

*I was working on a large project in preparation for an exhibition. One day, the curator called to give me the dates the work had to be installed. I then realized I had been wrong in my assumptions as to the date of the show, and only had two months left to paint the sixty remaining panels. With my lover assisting me by stretching fabric and building frames, I worked around the clock attempting to get the paintings done in time. I barely finished hanging the show the night before the opening. The next day, I came down with a severe flu.*



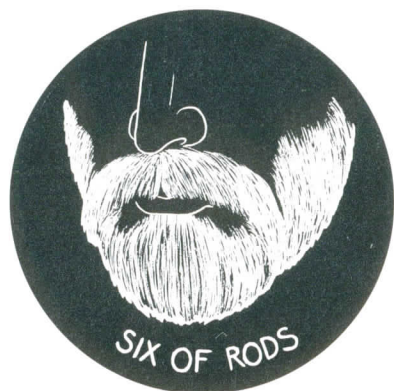
### SEVEN OF RODS

Man outnumbered by adversaries but the ultimate victor. Courage and persistence create advantage in business, trade or verbal war.

**Reverse:** Anxiety, confusion, chagrin. Avoid indecision.

*In my senior year of high school, my father decided to retire and we moved to Palm Beach, Florida. I was put into a junior year physical education class because I had not fulfilled the Florida high physical education requirements (as a result of traveling and going to school elsewhere). Not only was I despised by my classmates for being both a newcomer to school and being a senior, but I was especially despised for being unfamiliar with and indifferent to American sports, having grown up overseas. At one point, the biggest jock in the class attempted to drown me in the school's swimming pool. My requital (of sorts) came years later, when on a trip home from school in California to visit my dying father, I came upon him working as a janitor at a local fast food restaurant.*





### SIX OF RODS

Triumphal reconciliation of desire and reality. Great news realizing hopes.

**Reverse:** Sense of vulnerability and fear of enemy at the gates. Betrayal, as to the enemy. Indefinite delay.

*After many years of total artistic inactivity, I finally began to draw and paint, more to give my life a sense of purpose than for any career ambition. One day, a woman artist, the wife of a friend of mine, saw my work, and thereafter encouraged me to continue. I then began to work again in earnest, and after about a year, felt confident enough about my new work to enter a competition. Much to my surprise, I won, and soon discovered she had won the same award as well. That evening we had a long conversation, and I finally felt like an artist again after years of seeing myself as a failure.*



### FIVE OF RODS

Strenuous competition for material gains and recognition; business affairs may improve.

**Reverse:** Legal complications, trickery.

*I fell off a ladder and broke my arm at an exhibition space in Portland while disassembling an installation, and ended up in a shoulder length cast for six weeks, unable to paint or do even simple tasks without great discomfort. Although I assured the gallery personnel I would not bring about any legal action against them personally, I retained a lawyer to get a settlement from their insurance company for my medical bills. Although I assumed there would be no problem getting an easy and quick settlement and that the gallery personnel would be cooperative, they gave the insurance company false information in order to prevent any action against the gallery. These legal complications continued for a year and were never completely resolved.*



### FOUR OF RODS

Material and emotional blessings — harmony, repose, prosperity, the perfection of one's affairs.

**Reverse:** The meaning the same; prosperity, peace, amplitude.

*The only completely tranquil period of my childhood was when I was between the ages of five and seven. My family was together, we were prosperous and had servants to take care of our needs. I had good friends the same age as I, and we played the usual games, got into the usual kinds of trouble and lived in a safe American neighborhood. The only differences between our situation and that of most American families were the gates around our compound and the fact that we were in the middle of Tokyo, Japan during the American Occupation.*



### THREE OF RODS

Fruitful collaboration in business; also signifies enterprise, ingenuity, effort, and commerce.

**Reverse:** Help offered not reliable; adversity ceases.

*I was once offered a temporary job (that was paid under the table) doing theatrical set construction. At first the job sounded amusing and interesting, as it involved the construction of a scale model roller coaster, a cardboard jungle and other whimsical items. I soon found out, however, that these were decorations for peep show booths in a porno theater complex in an area between a strip-show theater and the strippers' dressing rooms. Ten to twenty times a day the strippers would climb through the construction area, holding their clothes and waving to the construction workers; it was then that I realized why the theater owners had hired my friends and I to do this work: we were all gay.*



### TWO OF RODS

Though one holds the world in the palm of his hand in the sense of wealth, dominion, magnificence, sadness is still indicated.

**Reverse:** Sense of wonder, enchantment; also, possible trouble, fear.

*While my family was vacationing in Yellowstone National Park, my father let my brother and me take our dog out for a walk. He told us to stay away from the geysers. As soon as we were outside of the hotel, we immediately ran off to the geysers, and were so transfixed at what we saw that we ignored the passage of time as well as my father's admonitions. Suddenly, my father was upon us, angrier than I had ever seen him before. He hit me so hard I fell into the steaming mud, and then dragged me back along the wooden trail, cursing at me as my brother followed. When we returned to our room, our mother wailed our imagined fate, my father wailed about my disobedience and my brother and I wailed about our anticipated beating.*



### ACE OF RODS

A time of beginnings — a marriage, birth, enterprise, creation or, in a sense, the creative or emotional momentum behind them.

**Reverse:** A shallow existence, decadence, spiritual ruin.

*When I first came out of the closet, I went through a period of intense sexual hunger. Eventually, as I learned the codes and secrets of the gay community, began to look for and find sex almost every night of the week. I first started at bars, but found it was difficult and time-consuming to meet someone compatible where status, clothes and money were important signals for potential tricks. I eventually gravitated towards the baths, where nudity and anonymity created an egalitarian atmosphere and one's appearance and interest were the only requirements for an encounter. Here I could find as many partners as I wanted, and would often stay until five or six in the morning. I soon abandoned my friends completely and shoved my artwork and materials in the closet to keep them from nagging my conscience.*





### KING OF CUPS

Represents a man of business, law or divinity who is responsible, generous and considerate of others.

**Reverse:** A selfish deceitful person. Can indicate a considerable loss.

*During the year after I graduated from art school, I spent many months subsisting on food stamps and the graces of my friends—I had trouble finding work living in Los Angeles with a broken-down car. Eventually I found a job with an architect, and although it was only as a permit runner, I was soon promoted to a design position, and within a year became supervisor of a department. The architect was generous to a fault with me, and went beyond the bounds of duty for my welfare. The position was helpful in stabilizing my life after getting out of school, but the office's political, religious and sexual arch-conservatism eventually made the environment intolerable, and I became impatient to leave.*



### QUEEN OF CUPS

A beautiful, loving woman, intuitive and yet practical too. Happy marriage, vision.

**Reverse:** In some ways may be a good woman, but may be perverse, not to be trusted.

*A woman I know divorced her husband and took custody of their son when she realized that her marriage was loveless. She fell in love with another man, and her new lover left his wife. All four parties were friends of mine, and so I was subjected to stories and accusations from all sides, leaving me somewhat wary of everyone. I was eventually convinced of her good intentions not only by her unflagging personal support, but by her fierce devotion to the people and ideas that mattered to her. What I had prejudicially assumed at first to be an impulsive act of lust on her part, I eventually came to understand as a justifiable and passionate act of the will.*



### KNIGHT OF CUPS

An intelligent man of high value, bearer of important messages. Can represent advances, invitation or change to new endeavors.

**Reverse:** A seducer, unworthy of trust. Examine all propositions.

*A gay theater designer and artist I once worked with made no secret of his attraction to me, even though I showed no sexual interest in him. At the time, I was new to San Francisco. I knew very few people in town and no other artists, so I began working with him and his friends on their group projects in spite of his constant sexual harassments. I soon found my relationship with his group intolerable because I found that not only was he lecherous, but his selfishness and egotism prevented anyone else in the group from expressing ideas or creating projects in his presence.*



### PAGE OF CUPS

A thoughtful, artistic young man or girl willing to help the seeker. Can also signify the birth of a child or new ideas in business.

**Reverse:** Obstacles, responsibility not assumed.

*The first year I was in California at art school, I took a video art course from a bright young graduate student who was demanding in his expectations of students. I was fascinated by the course, and abandoned painting and drawing to concentrate on making more and more videos. Because of his intense nature, the other students soon dropped out of the course and I became his only student. He later went on to become famous, but as a painter, not as a video artist.*



### TEN OF CUPS

Perfection of human love and friendship, contentment; attainment of the heart's desires.

**Reverse:** Loss of harmony, anger, feelings of guilt.

*When I was thinking of moving to San Francisco, I came to visit from Santa Cruz often. One day, while visiting a now-defunct leather bar with a friend, I saw a man smiling at me from across the room. Although we were both too shy and too attracted to approach each other, my companion and his friends introduced themselves to each other and laughed about our mutual predicament. They finally got us together, and we left for his apartment. We stayed in bed together for two days. I was soon seeing him so often he got ill from lack of sleep, so we moved in together. Some time later, as we were dancing together at a new year's party, a man came up and whispered in my lover's ear how envious he was of us. When I found out what the man had said, I suddenly realized that in spite of my own homophobic programming, I had attained a successful relationship.*



### NINE OF CUPS

Material, physical and spiritual well-being. Happiness.

**Reverse:** Overemphasis on physical and material side of one's being; imperfections.

*After I had been living in San Francisco about five years, sexual relations with my lover had stopped. I began to spend an inordinate amount of time attending to my body, going to the gym six days a week for two or three hours at a time, and buying expensive skin treatments and outfits for my weekend excursions to the leather bars. I worked less and less on my artwork, and instead concentrated my efforts on finding the perfect leatherman. Throughout this period, my lover was patiently tolerant, although he often scolded me for my inverted priorities. After a year of this, I met the so-called perfect leather man, but found that I had by now fallen in love with the ritual, and that the reward was disposable.*





### EIGHT OF CUPS

A withdrawal from the present situation; decline of a matter which is of little consequence for good or evil.

**Reverse:** Material aspect chosen over spiritual; joy, feasting.

*As the AIDS epidemic began to spread, I stopped going to bars for sex, and began to make discreet arrangements for sexual encounters by using the modem on my home computer to contact other gay men on bulletin board networks. Although the meetings were often unfruitful, one man and I eventually hit it off, and we would meet late at night after our lovers had both gone to sleep. Since I was indulging in sex much less often by this time I began to work more often on my art again, and eventually stopped using the modem. When this happened, he began to stop coming over, and without any indication on his part, finally stopped altogether. He was my last sexual contact, and I have been celibate since that time.*



### SEVEN OF CUPS

The seeker has a strong, active imagination and many desires, but lacks the tenacity to translate ideas into reality. Limited attainment.

**Reverse:** Determination and tenacity; the realization of a project.

*When I first began artwork again seriously, I worked on a project utilizing both Greek mythology and astronomical photographs to develop a scale model of the solar system. Because the project was so massively ambitious, my funds so limited, and people's responses as to the results so disturbed and quizzical, I abandoned it for other projects that were more manageable. This was not without regret, for years later, when the completed panels were seen by others, they expressed regret at the project's premature termination.*



### SIX OF CUPS

Reflection on the past, things that have vanished. May indicate desire for change.

**Reverse:** Inability to outgrow the past creates failure. Possibility of some gift from the past.

*One day, while reminiscing about the past, I came up with the idea of doing an autobiographical project, using as its structure the oracle of the Tarot, inverting the process of using the cards' symbolism to remind me of my past instead of to predict the future. I divided the major arcana into masculine and feminine aspects for specific memories of my parents, and kept the minor arcana for my other personal memories.*



### FIVE OF CUPS

Indicates some loss in the process of receiving something, i.e., a disappointing inheritance, possibly a marriage carrying with it bitterness and frustration.

**Reverse:** Hope renewed, return of a friend or relative, a new alliance.

*When my father died, I was estranged from my stepmother and did not receive any of my father's estate. Years later my brother told me that my father had left me an old trunk filled with personal items from my childhood as well as my old drawings and paintings. To this day, my dislike of my stepmother has kept me from contacting her about this chest. I often think about it and try to imagine its contents.*



### FOUR OF CUPS

Sense of boredom and dissatisfaction with environment and possibly self; longing for change. Action must be taken, but seeker is hesitant.

**Reverse:** Good omen for something new and possibly unusual entering Querent's life.

*I was working for an architect in San Francisco when the firm lost their major contract. The pace at work slowed down immediately and I found myself bored, without anything to do. I became frustrated with my lack of motivation to go out and find a new job even as others were being laid off. It was with both fear and relief that I finally greeted my own layoff. After I left, I began to work in my studio. In spite of other jobs, I have continued on my own work ever since. I'm never bored anymore.*



### THREE OF CUPS

Bountiful outcome in perfection and merriment; fulfillment, healing.

**Reverse:** Physical enjoyment and the pleasures of the senses to excess.

*When my lover and I first lived together, we sometimes would take an hallucigen to enhance our lovemaking. The drug had an unfortunate side effect - as it wore off, one's ability to move became more and more difficult. One time, we took so much that I developed mild hepatitis-like symptoms and became bedridden for days. I didn't give up using it, however, until I learned that it caused permanent physical damage.*





### TWO OF CUPS

Love, affinity, friendship; a spiritual union, harmony.

**Reverse:** Disharmony, jealousy, false love.

*One of my first boyfriends was exceedingly jealous and possessive, and insisted on having his way at all times. When I first met him, however, I was destitute and needed the attention he gave me. As time went by I realized that he used me as a status symbol, and his patronizing chauvinism became an almost constant annoyance. One evening, when we went out dancing, he walked off to talk to some friends, and a woman that I had been chatting with invited me outside for a smoke. He saw us leaving, followed us outside, grabbed me and slapped me across the face for "sneaking away". Recognizing an abusive relationship in the making, I abruptly left him the next day.*



### ACE OF CUPS

Wealthy in the things of the spirit – love, joy, fertility, content.

**Reverse:** Revolution, bankruptcy, change.

*When we moved into our own apartment, my lover began to buy me studio supplies and equipment so that I could paint. He always encouraged me to work in the studio, and chided me when I was too lazy or reluctant to work. I often wondered why he made such an effort, and he finally told me one day that I would feel better about myself if I could succeed at something. He then confessed a fantasy from his youth about taking care of a loved one and helping him to succeed.*



### KING OF SWORDS

An authority whether in the field of medicine, law or government; brilliant and wise.

**Reverse:** Brilliance coupled with cruelty; evil intention.

*After the month my father discovered he had terminal cancer and remarried, I had a nervous breakdown. This was precipitated by being dragged away to the Florida Everglades and dumped on an abandoned road by some neighborhood kids. When I finally made it home, I couldn't stop crying or shaking. I went into intensive therapy with a psychologist, and as I got healthier my family got crazier, until my father finally said he wouldn't pay for therapy any more. The psychiatrist's final words to me were that I was in an insane family, and that the symptoms came out in me first because I was the most sensitive. He suggested that I get as far away from my father as I could, so I moved out within the year. This was probably the best advice I ever received.*



### QUEEN OF SWORDS

A saddened woman representing widowhood, privation, absence, sterility or separation.

**Reverse:** A superficial woman dominated by negative emotions, malice, intolerance, pettiness.

*When I was a teen-ager, living in Bangkok with my family, the only English-speaking person my own age living nearby was an intelligent, ugly and mean girl who lived next door. She was bigger than I, and physically and psychologically dominated my time away from school, browbeating me into going places and doing projects for her. One day, she chose to take out her anger on my invalid mother by prodding her, and I became so incensed that I grabbed her by the hair and physically threw her out of the house. Our family's servants came to thank me, telling me similar stories of their own abuse by her.*



### KNIGHT OF SWORDS

An action-oriented man of military nature epitomizing bravery, skill and determination. Depending on the cards nearby, this card could mean conflict, war, opposition or destruction.

**Reverse:** Indiscreet, extravagant, foolish.

*When my lover and I first lived together, we had a roommate who owned the lease on our apartment. He was a vain and indulgent man who had his own advertising business set up by his father. He spent his clients' money on personal extravagances, bragging all the while about how much he was getting away with. My lover, who completely disliked and distrusted the man, found out one day from the landlord the true amount of the rent, and that we were practically footing the bill for the whole apartment. Without giving our roommate a clue that we knew of the situation, we moved out. We found out later that his business folded, and that he was forced to go to work at a local department store.*



### PAGE OF SWORDS

Denotes watchfulness, spying, examination for either positive or negative reasons.

**Reverse:** Unforeseen danger; unprepared state; illness a possibility.

*I once had a friend whom I worked with when I was working as a writer for a magazine. He started a project of publishing a magazine of his own, and asked me to be the editor. As we began research on the project, he began to develop the early symptoms of AIDS. His behavior became erratic, and he started to drink heavily. He developed a suspicious nature, accused his friends of surreptitious seductions and plots, and would spend hours insulting people behind their backs. In spite of our attempts to take care of him, he became more paranoid and grandiose, and finally disappeared one day.*





### TEN OF SWORDS

A card of trouble and suffering, ruin, pain, affliction, tears. Not a card of violent death.

**Reverse:** A period of advantage, profit, power.

*During the period of my life when I first became sexually active, I contracted a disease called condyloma – venereal warts. Because of my fear and shame, I did not tell my doctor, and the condition worsened until I was literally crippled by a cauliflower-sized growth in my colon, causing violent cramps, a total inability to defecate, and resulting in sleepless, panic-stricken nights. I was eventually hospitalized, operated on, and because of my shame and poverty, sneaked out of the hospital before I had recovered. Since I had no painkillers at home, I spent another month writhing in agony and hiding from a landlord I could not pay.*



### NINE OF SWORDS

Vacillation on an important matter, failure, disappointment, desolation. May mean miscarriage or death of a loved one.

**Reverse:** Shame, suspicion, uncertainty, imprisonment.

*When I was young, I belonged to the boy scouts. At one point I was a patrol leader, and often would hold meetings at an old complex of army barracks on an army base. One night, I talked my patrol into exploring the complex by climbing along the interconnected roofs. We had great fun at this, as the complex was huge and maze-like. Suddenly, we were surrounded by military police with guns and searchlights, and with helicopters overhead. They took us to military police headquarters, and made us wait for our parents to arrive. We were terribly frightened and confused. My father arrived, furious, and while driving me home, told me that we had been running on the roof of a CIA building where they had been interrogating a spy, and that we had caused the entire army base to go on alert.*



### EIGHT OF SWORDS

Inability to extricate oneself from a difficult situation; conflict, crisis, slander.

**Reverse:** Anxiety, deception, and opposition; sometimes unforeseen tragedy.

*As the AIDS epidemic worsened and more of my friends became ill, I went through AIDS panic, imagining that every pimple was a lesion and every cold was the onset of pneumonia. I began to avoid gay social life, instead working in my studio to keep the fear at a tolerable level. Eventually the panic passed and my mind's denial mechanisms went into gear. However, when an AIDS test became available and my doctor asked me to take it, I said no, fearing that state of panic again, and preferring an unknown future to the possibility of knowing my fate. He understood, but insisted on monitoring my health.*



### SEVEN OF SWORDS

Plans, hopes, expectations; also, irritations and possible failure in relation to same.

**Reverse:** Counsel, instruction, sound advice.

*When I was in elementary school after my family and I had returned from Japan for the second time, my father told us we were going to be moving to Germany. Thrilled at the thought of traveling to Europe instead of going to Asia again, we all began to take German lessons and studied European geography and history in preparation for the move. We obtained visas, got our shots, and then, at the last moment, were transferred to Okinawa, an island off the coast of Japan, because the military's focus was shifting from the cold war in Europe to the hot war growing in Southeast Asia.*



### SIX OF SWORDS

Journey by water; action toward resolution of difficulties perhaps through another person.

**Reverse:** Dilemma without any immediate solution.

*Although I was too young to remember it myself, my mother often told me a story about our returning from Japan by ocean liner when I was very young. The sea was choppy, and everyone (except me) was seasick. Apparently, I made everyone sicker by constantly running around the decks screaming at the top of my lungs. Since the crew was too busy and my parents were incapacitated, the entire ship was forced to put with this for weeks. The captain, hearing everyone's complaints, finally took me up to the bridge with him for safe keeping.*



### FIVE OF SWORDS

Humiliation, dishonor, loss.

**Reverse:** A cause for mourning.

*My first sexual encounter occurred one day when I was working at a summer job in my father's cartography office in Bangkok. I was employed there as a surveyor's apprentice while school was out. One of the other trainees, a Thai man, took particular interest in me, and one day invited me back to the restroom. The encounter was furtive and did not result in anything. When we came out a few minutes later, the entire office was sitting at a table outside the door, giving us knowing but disapproving looks. The only verbal response I received from them was a terse "cheap thrills".*





### FOUR OF SWORDS

Retreat, recuperation, exile.

**Reverse:** Activity tempered with economy and careful administration.

*The year after my father died, my friends at college were sensitive to my silence and withdrawn behavior. Over the Christmas break, they knew I had nowhere to go and offered me a chance to go up to a cabin in the mountains with them, along with another student who had no family. After Christmas, they left the two of us there to relax and do some creative work. As soon as they left, a giant snowstorm hit, and we were snowed in at the mountain cabin until they returned. It was a much needed retreat, and I was myself when I returned to school.*



### THREE OF SWORDS

Rupture, separation, absence, delay.

**Reverse:** Disharmony, alienation, confusion, disorder.

*One summer, while my family was vacationing in Utah, my parents left for the afternoon on business. Although my brother and I were still young, my father told us we were old enough to take care of ourselves, and that we didn't need a babysitter. It began to get dark, and we still had no word from our parents. Teasing my brother, I told him stories about how our parents could have been killed. He broke out crying, but I continued to tell him ominous tales. These fabrications finally began to work on me and I became fearful as well. By the time my parents came home, my brother and I were huddled on my parents bed, crying our hearts out.*



## TWO OF SWORDS

Peaceful hiatus in an otherwise discordant situation.

**Reverse:** End of stalemate; falsehood, disloyalty.

*One of my best friends in college moved into an apartment with me when we graduated. Although I had no job, he provided for us both. I was attracted to him, although I had assumed he was heterosexual. One day he began to bring home gay magazines, offering in a non-committal manner for me to look at them with him. This puzzled me for some time. Finally, one day, acting very disturbed with me for no apparent reason, he told me he was moving out. Later, I had an affair with our upstairs neighbor, and he told me what had happened. The evening with the magazines had been my friend's half-baked attempt at seducing me. Since he knew I was gay and I still didn't try to seduce him, he assumed I was uninterested in him, and instead went to seek comfort in the arms of the man upstairs.*

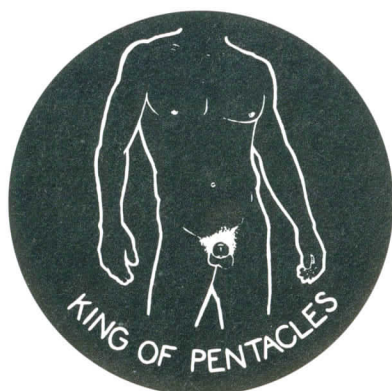


## ACE OF SWORDS

Triumph of great force, either love or hatred; may signify a birth of special significance.

**Reverse:** Extremes of love or hate or ambition can lead to disastrous results.

*I once became madly infatuated with a man who realized his hold on me. I would send him incredibly detailed pornographic drawings every day, and would leave long messages on his answering machine. He would taunt me by driving by outside my window at night, calling me, or would invite me over, and then not answer the door. If my frustration grew too much, and I stopped playing the game, he would suddenly appear at my doorstep, and we would have wild sex all night long. I soon became unable to concentrate on anything else. Then, one day, he appeared at the door, and for reasons I still can't quite fathom, I didn't let him in, and never returned his phone calls again.*



### KING OF PENTACLES

A dark man of good intelligence and strong convictions who is a considerate and affectionate partner.

**Reverse:** Corrupt. A tendency toward drunkenness, unfaithfulness and perverse use of ability.

*I decided to attend an art school in California because of the work of one of its teachers. I was in awe of him, and found myself unable to approach him when I first arrived. Eventually, he became my mentor. Even after I left school, I kept in contact with him. He continued to give me advice, and after I left Los Angeles, came to visit on occasion, unknowingly providing me with support when I thought I had none.*



### QUEEN OF PENTACLES

A dark woman of generous and perceptive spirit who is a devoted wife; magnificence, opulence, security.

**Reverse:** Suspicious, distrustful, anxious.

*My best friend and collaborator in college became successful in art and in teaching soon after she graduated from school. In spite of her success, she always kept close to me, even when I was unable to function. When I was down, I often thought she told me stories of her success to make me feel inadequate, but now realize that it was her way of getting me back on my feet again. We remain friends, in spite of the occasional slights that happen to old friendships, but as of this writing, we're not talking to each other.*





### KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

A responsible, patient, hard-working man. Also denotes usefulness, ability to serve.

**Reverse:** Idleness, carelessness, lethargy.

*A good friend of mine from school was a precocious actor and filmmaker, although he was a confirmed reprobate and willful anarchist. Over the years, he became more and more of an agoraphobic, staying in his apartment, smoking dope and watching old movies. He began to sell his collection of movie posters and memorabilia for spending money. In spite of this, I still paid him visits when I returned to Los Angeles. He was, after all, a good and generous friend, and remained one to me during my own ups and downs. The last time I saw him, he was working again as an actor and preparing to move to Beverly Hills.*

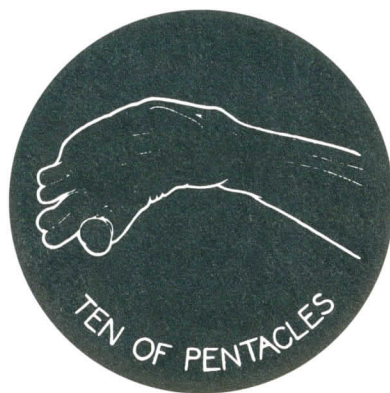


### PAGE OF PENTACLES

A young person; serious, scholarly, hardworking. May denote scholarship, respect for new ideas.

**Reverse:** Rebel, dissipation, prodigality and unfavorable news.

*A friend of mine in high school once joined me for a party at my house with my brother and a friend of his. My father and stepmother had gone on a trip, and had strictly forbade us to invite anyone to the house while they were gone. My friend and I obtained what we thought was mescaline, expecting to have an amusing evening. The mescaline turned out to be a deliriant. Everyone except my brother's friend and I ran off, wildly delirious. My brother was found miles away naked in someone's garage, and was taken to a juvenile detention center. The following morning, my friend's parents called in great distress, saying that their son was on the roof of their house. My parents were contacted by the police, came home immediately, and kept me grounded for a month.*



### TEN OF PENTACLES

Pertains to family matters such as an inheritance, lineage, gains.

**Reverse:** Loss of family reputation or inheritance. Be careful of financial dealing.

*After my father died, I heard from my brother that our stepmother had taken my father's estate and used it to finance a trip to Eastern Europe for a group of fundamentalists, where they protested the arrest of a minister. The entire entourage was arrested, and the United States Embassy had to bail them out. When she returned, the estate was gone. Although my father had asked her to take care of his sons after he died, she kicked my brother out of the house. Much to her dismay, my brother later married a Jewish woman, and when my stepmother was invited to the wedding reception, she was wisely placed at the table of the local rabbi in order to keep her away from us.*



### NINE OF PENTACLES

Financial security, accomplishment, certainty.

**Reverse:** Deception, voided project, bad faith.

*After years of refusing to exhibit my drawings out of fear and feelings of inadequacy, I was coerced by my lover into exhibiting a series of them in a gallery around the corner from our apartment. After the show came down, I kept the drawings in a box in my studio. One day a friend of mine came to my studio to help me install some computer equipment. He began to look at the drawings, and bought them all on sight, to my complete amazement. After this, I finally got over my fear of showing my work, although for some time I was surprised when people actually wanted it for themselves.*



### EIGHT OF PENTACLES

Employment, skilled work, commission.

**Reverse:** Failure, conceit, greedy desire for wealth; the lending of money at exorbitant rates.

*When I was working for the architect in Los Angeles, a client called up one day asking for a muralist. I offered my services, even though I had no real experience. She offered me a good price, but the project turned out to be decorating her entire home with the kind of loud super-graphic designer stripes that were popular in the seventies. The project became endless, and she constantly continued to add new work in every room of the house. Her reasons for this eventually became apparent to me. She was a lonely housewife with money and nothing to do, and my company kept her happy while her husband was at work. When I finally completed the project, she told me she had talked her husband into returning home to New York; with the project completed and the house decorated, there was no reason for her to stay.*



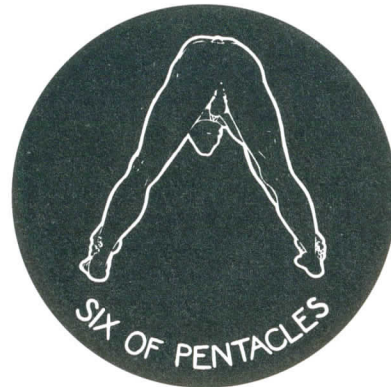
### SEVEN OF PENTACLES

Success in matters having to do with money, business, barter.

**Reverse:** Apprehension over money matters; impatience.

*I badly wanted to stop having to work for someone else for a living, and came up with the idea of buying my own computer in order to free myself from working downtown. I sent in an order with a check to have an old, out of date computer upgraded, but after the check was sent, discovered that I had miscalculated and overdrafted my checking account. My lover bailed me out, much to his displeasure. Months later, the computer company sent me a letter saying that they were going to have to send my money back, that they were unable to complete the upgrade. I spent the money on art supplies, and overdrafted my account again.*



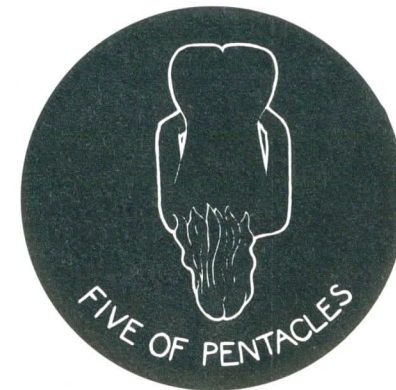


### SIX OF PENTACLES

Business success combined with a generous and fair sharing of proceeds; philanthropy.

**Reverse:** Greedy desire for wealth; illusion, envy.

*After I began to have success with my artwork, I started to join as many arts organizations as I could. Whenever possible I began to encourage my friends with their work and supported the efforts of others whose work I admired, encouraging my lover to do the same. Although there were many other things I could have spent the money on, I felt these small gestures were justified because of their importance to my self-esteem and motivation when I first began working, and I knew the difficulties for others in starting an art career.*

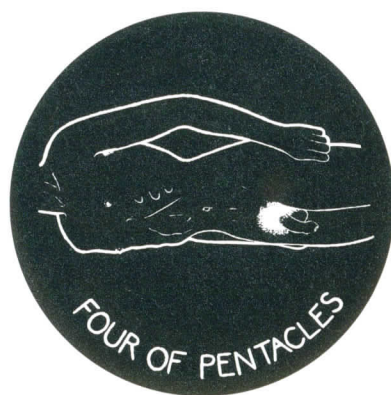


### FIVE OF PENTACLES

Material or spiritual impoverishment; loneliness.

**Reverse:** Dissonance in marriage; obstacles to resolution of personal relations.

*One day while making love, I told my lover to stop because I was in pain. Because of this small complaint and my continuing habit of going outside of the relationship for sexual encounters, he became deeply despondent. Finally, in tears, he told me that he never wanted to have sex with me again. I loved him (in spite of my errant behavior) and tried in vain to get him to respond to me for weeks. He remained cold for some time, but with sensitivity and attention on my part, he finally responded. Then gradually over the next few year our lovemaking faded on its own, replaced by an easy trust and affection.*



### FOUR OF PENTACLES

Denotes one possessive of material things, impressed with the power such possessions wield. May also mean inheritance, gifts, legacy.

**Reverse:** Material ambitions thwarted, possible loss of possessions.

*When my grandfather died, he left my father a portion of his estate. Since my father had died the previous year, this portion was divided up between my brother and I. I was a poverty-stricken college student at the time, and had never received a large sum of money. Having no comprehension of savings or thrift, I immediately went out and bought a car, new clothes and spent the rest of the inheritance on food and drink. The money lasted all of one month.*



### THREE OF PENTACLES

Card of mastery, such as of a skill, nobility, renown, glory.

**Reverse:** Mediocrity in work or person; immaturity, pettiness.

*After years of working on a computer, I became fast, skillful and creative working with the software. As my deftness increased, I began to pay less attention to the fine points of the work I did, often leaving small errors that were annoying to others, and for which I did not bother to proof. Although I was often chided for typos in documents and other forms of errors, when the company I worked for had to make do without me while I was on vacation, they realized my worth and welcomed my return.*

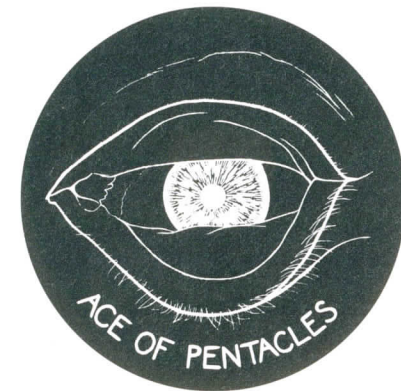


### TWO OF PENTACLES

Cause for jubilation; troubles not as serious as had been imagined.

**Reverse:** Conflict of irreconcilable opposites; simulated enjoyment and letters of exchange.

*An architect I once had the unpleasant duty to work with caused me great distress by constantly creating unnecessary paperwork. As he was unable to make decisions and was afraid of leaving work undone, he meticulously documented everything he did in miniscule and illegible handwriting which I was forced to type, tormented further by his constant revisions. Finally, I spoke to my employer, showing him the work that was burdening me. The architect found out my complaints, and then subjected me to editing and re-editing a book that was never used. I was exasperated and ready to quit when he was fired. Weeks later, after he had been let go, he returned to the office, and with a false smile, asked me to type a letter of recommendation for him.*



### ACE OF PENTACLES

Complete contentment, bliss, ecstasy, quick intelligence; gold, wealth.

**Reverse:** Deterioration of character through wrong attitude toward wealth; the evil side of wealth.

*After my family had returned from Thailand and my father and I were reunited, I told him that I needed a larger allowance to "live in the manner to which I had become accustomed in the Orient". He was shocked at this elitist statement coming from someone so young, and to prove his disgust, he told me he was cutting my allowance in half, and that I was to find work on my own if I wanted spending money. In anger and spite, I began peddling marijuana at high school, and didn't stop until I came close to being searched by a policeman while I was hitchhiking.*



*INVERT, ORACLE*

*List of Panels*

*Entrance panels* (2). Panels are laser printed text and acrylic varnish on paper mounted on canvas with grommets and rope; each panel 33" x 120".

*Father, the Emperor*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, the Magician*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Emperor*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Hierophant*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Chariot*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Hermit*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Hanged Man*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Devil*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Tower*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Father, The Sun*, acrylic and polyurethane on mahogany hollow core wood door, 36" x 80".

*Mother*, consisting of the small panels *The High Priestess, The Empress, The Lovers, Strength, The Wheel of Fortune, Justice, Death, Temperance, The Star, The Moon, Judgment, The World*, and *The Fool*. Table: oil and acrylic on slate, paper, suede, nylon, plastic, canvas, styrofoam, linoleum, silk, cotton, wool and carpet; mirror; etched glass; 48" diameter x 36" high.

*Autobiography*, 56 chalk drawings on black paper, 18" diameter each.

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