

PRIDE TAROT

A Collaborative Deck

SAMPLE



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INTRODUCTION TO PRIDE TAROT

Shortly after 2019 Pride Month, honoring the Stonewall Uprising, Stuart Kaplan called the art department at U.S. Games Systems in for a meeting. Urban Tarot had been out a few months and we were all very excited about the positive reception it was getting. Robin's personal experiences and her work with the LGBTQ+ community inspired us to become more actively involved in giving LGBTQ+ tarot artists a voice and a creative forum. After some brainstorming we all concurred that a collaborative Pride Tarot deck would be the ideal way for U.S. Games Systems to support the Pride movement. We knew we wanted this deck to be positive, welcoming and a celebration of the diversity in the LGBTQ+ community. Another decision we all agreed upon was for U.S. Games Systems to donate a portion of the Pride Tarot sales to an organization working to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals. Since it is all too often young people who most acutely experience isolation and marginalization, we have chosen to donate to a group whose mission is to help struggling

young people. Please see www.usgamesinc.com for details about our donation.

To create Pride Tarot, we reached out to U.S. Games Systems artists, some of who identify as LGBTQ+, while most of the others have close family and friends who are members of the community. We also invited other LGBTQ+ tarot artists to contribute artwork (some new, some from existing tarot decks) for the Pride Tarot deck. The response from all the tarot artists contacted was unanimous and overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Our contributors are particularly pleased to be involved with a project that is supporting an important program.

The result is a tarot deck reflecting amazing unity as well as diversity. We have 45 different artists' work collected from all areas of the LGBTQ+ community and from around the globe, including Russia, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, the UK, Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Columbia, Guatemala, Canada, the United States, Scotland and Mexico. Many of these artists are activists for LGBTQ+ rights. All of them have poignant and powerful stories to tell. We are grateful to every one of these artists for sharing their vision and their inspiration.

—Lynn Araujo, U.S. Games Systems, Inc.

THE MAJOR ARCANA SAMPLE



[Handwritten signature]

0. THE FOOL

BY SAM KAHN

The Fool, contrary to the colloquial use of the word, represents innocence and new beginnings, a chance to start anew. It is not representative of stupidity or a lack of intelligence, but rather optimism and hope. These concepts, especially in the current climate, require strength like never before.

My synesthesia, which allows me to see emotions as colors, sees these concepts as bright sunshine yellow, light blue, and a very happy pink. This interpretation is with a hiker beginning a journey, side by side with their dog. I left the facial features of the individual nondescript in order to allow anyone to identify with them.



Felix d'Eno 2019

I. THE MAGICIAN

BY FELIX D'EON

Here, the Magician of traditional tarot takes the form of a *Nahual*, a Mexican witch or sorcerer, who has the ability to transform into an animal at will. Nahuales are a traditional part of Mexican belief in both indigenous and Mestizo culture. They are gender fluid, with the beard of a man, but with the hairstyle and earrings of a woman. They have the ability to transform not only into a beast, but to change their gender as well. They hold the four elements of the four suits; the wand, the cup, the pentacle, and the sword, for they have control over all of the necessary elements to manifest their intentions. They stand on a cliff face overlooking a village, for they are between the heavens and the earth, and have access to both. They move through the world of the spirit and the world of men, and have found wisdom and knowledge.

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