

## **Professor Hyatt's Tarot**

### **A perspective of Tarot cards as art works with practical examples**

This exhibition seeks to highlight the venerable tradition of tarot cards as a diverse part of the arts genre, rather than the common perception of merely fortune telling. There are a plethora of tarots, old and modern, that have featured the works of artists ranging from Hieronymous Bosch to Andy Warhol.

Our project features original artwork by artist John Hyatt, Professor of Contemporary Art at John Moore University. The proposal is for an exhibition, or series of exhibitions in gallery both in ACT and interstate. These will feature large scale wall mounted prints of cards from the Major Arcana, along with a plinth displaying actual full decks of tarot cards in rigid boxes and information booklet on the images by John and the history of the tarot in art. These will also be for sale.

The rationale behind this exhibition is twofold; to highlight the often overlooked status of tarot cards as art pieces in their own right, and to explore an art medium that is truly interactive with the viewer by its very nature.

I wish to convey the rich history of tarot art from its early beginnings as a parlour game with minimal imagery, through to its discovery by Classical artists from the Victorian era onwards and on to the plethora of designs and themes available in tarot cards today. The proliferation in tarot can to a large degree be attributed to an upsurge in interest in alternate lifestyles and new age perspectives among the current generation.

In terms of the exhibition itself I envisage a selection of cards blown up to A1 (possibly A0) and mounted on the wall – the number and size of pieces will be dependent on layout and gallery wall space, there will also be panel on the history of tarot and this particular iteration.

Adjacent to the wall prints will be table upon which will be placed several tarot decks featuring artwork by the artist Professor John Hyatt – each deck of 78 cards. There will be instructions on the table and guests will be invited to look through the decks and have a go at using the cards themselves.