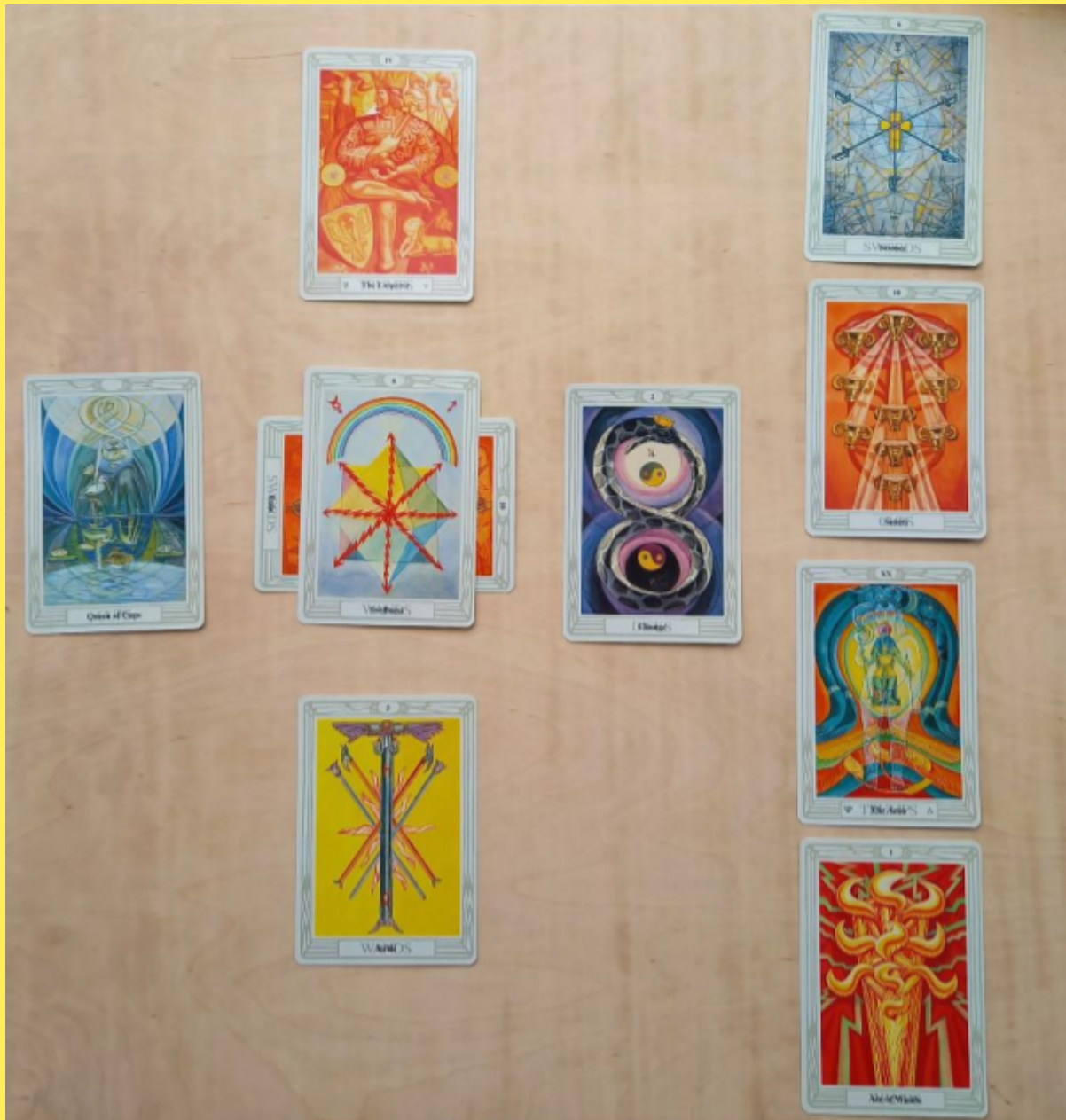




Provocation

Provocation - The Complication Dilemma and Processing of Being an Artist

I decided to use The Tarot as response. I wanted to connect to the energy I felt around the provocation. Beforehand, I meditated, cleansed my space and cards. I used the Thoth/Crowley pack, I use it pretty much only for art questions. Apparently John and Yoko did too. If it's good enough for them! I love this pack for its artistry and rich symbolism. Lady Harris's artwork is stunning.

This is what I held in mind whilst pulling the cards which was my interpretation of the

provocation.

“The energy of the feeling of the complex nature of becoming a working artist. The anxiety, the worry, the fear, the not knowing, the want, the draw, the hope, the belief, the simple joy.”

For context I'm someone with a difficult health condition, which creates disability and unable to consistently work therefore dependent on benefits, but is compelled to create around my symptoms.

I used the Celtic Cross layout as it's a good all rounder. I used the book 'The Crowley Tarot,' Akron & Hajo Banzhaf.¹ All the following is quoted directly from it. It was really wild how much this hand connected to what I've gone through, where I am and obviously we don't know yet what's to come.

1. Ten of Swords

This is it - describes the initial situation. “Is this the wrong or right direction? Will it be a painful end or one that frees?” (Sums up perfectly to me how I feel about my art practice and wondering about the realities of trying to carve a sustainable career and the complexities of that financially and on my health.)

2. Eight of Wands

This crosses it - the additional impulse, is it beneficial or hindering? The card represents ideas, movement & quick communication. The card shows sudden ideas & flashes of inspiration that explode our previous habits of thought. The creative release of the fire element = ideas.

3. The Emperor

This crowns it - the conscious level, clear to the asker. This card stands for the structure giving element, our longing for stability, security & continuity. Our striving for independence. (Definitely what I'd love to happen.)

4. Five of Wands

¹The Crowley Tarot: The Handbook to the Cards

by Akron, Hajo Banzhaf, Aleister Crowley, Frieda Harris

It rests upon this - realm of the unconscious, the magic formula. Energetically the card is the equivalent of revolutionary renewal. Seen from developmental psychology equates to a demanding and new orientation of one's own circumstances to the surrounding world. (Dare I/we step out?)

5. Queen of Cups

This was before - most recent past indicates causes of current situation. Erasing the boundaries between dream and reality, the urge to remove limitations. Queen of cups is the anima mundi (anima) of the world. In external life this card means we find ourselves in a quiet, wait and see phase, in which we listen inwardly to receive clarity about our wishes and plans. (Absolutely where I was and still am a lot of the time, to be fair.)

6. Two of disks

This comes afterwards - glimpse of the near future. Depicts eternal alternation of opposites and thereby a condition of constant fluctuation and change. (Oh the joy of the arts.) Two disks means a turn of events, change, variation, upheaval (Please no more!), revolution (Ok, I can get behind that) and diversity. Don't cling and allow lightheartedness through all the phases.

7. Ace of Wands

This is the Asker - my attitude to the topic/question. Energetically it's the spirit of the will striving for realisation in life. The inner restlessness arises from a creative urge to burst the framework that has become too narrow for the awakening fire spirit. Plans are as yet not completely formulated and possibilities only partially recognised. (Quick aside, when I got sick I always said my fire got put out, are the arts reigniting it?)

8. The Aeon

This is where it takes place - surrounding environment. This card relates to within time itself/spiritual level of experience/alchemic transformation. (Well, I do creatively draw from the unseen.)

9. Ten of Cups

These are the hopes and fears. Hopes for inner fulfilment, the soul's work is completed. Fears that the intuition isn't being correctly seen and the path will instead lead to emptiness. (The dilemma of it all.)

10. Six of Swords

This is where it leads - long term outlook. In the depths of inner experience this leads to a way of thinking that is extensive and holistic, whereby even apparently irreconcilable opposites and viewpoints can be reconciled with each other. New insights lead to unconventional solutions to problems deemed unsolvable up to now. (That would be wonderful.)