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CAST Debuts its Inaugural Exhibition Inspired by a Tarot Deck for the Times

Tarot in Pandemic and Revolution honors the collective experience of living through a pandemic with a multidisciplinary event featuring 62 artists from around the SF Bay Area

San Francisco, CA – On Saturday, March 25, 2023, [Community Arts Stabilization Trust](#) (CAST) in partnership with [Baldocchi Projects & Collaborations](#) and artist/curator [Adrián Arias](#) presents *Tarot in Pandemic and Revolution*, an exhibition that unites 62 visual artists and poets from across the San Francisco Bay Area in an immersive display of art, poetry, live music, interactive installations, local food, and tarot at [447 Minna](#) and the Parks at [5M](#).

Reflecting on our collective experience of living through a pandemic and responding to this critical moment of social awakening, this multidisciplinary project was inspired by a lucid dream from Peruvian-born, Oakland-based visual artist, poet, and curator Adrián Arias in 2020. After seeing a fortune teller and cards embellished with images of viruses, masks, Black Lives Matter marches, and protests, Adrián set out to make his dream a reality. Inviting over 60 internationally-recognized visual artists, writers, and poets from his community spanning three generations, this project became an outlet for capturing a moment in history unlike any other.

This collaboration brings together award-winning poet laureates, novelists, authors, muralists, painters, graphic artists, performance artists, musicians, and dancers with deep roots across the San Francisco Bay Area. Over 40 artists/poets will reunite for the March opening to activate CAST's indoor community spaces (black box theater, lobby, and 2nd floor) and surrounding park in synchronous creativity. Activities range from live screen printing, mural making, poetry and tarot card readings to an interactive "Illusion Show", another recurring project by Adrián that invites viewers to engage with a blank slate—a room wrapped in white paper—with live drawing, music and poetry readings happening simultaneously.

"Every artist has their own philosophy and way to talk about what is happening in our reality," said curator Adrián Arias. "I'm not the creator, I'm just the instigator. It shows if you use your dreams in this way with your community, you can make it a reality and help reality to be better."

Participating artists and poets used their experiences of the pandemic to create a unique 81-card deck with a corresponding poem for each arcane. This exhibition at 447 Minna marks the first time all 81 original works will be on view to the public and the first time all four floors of the 447 Minna building will be open since CAST completed the last of its renovations in February. Though partially

open since March 2022, CAST's newest 2nd floor was built out specifically to address the needs of the SoMa community for a flex arts and community space. The opening, which honors cultural exchange, community connections, and the vibrancy art brings to neighborhoods, also ushers in a celebration of CAST's 10th anniversary.

"There is so much pride and heart at the foundation of these programs," said CAST Director of Events and Programming Matthew McTire. "It extends beyond the long-term projects we are known for and serves as a foundation for immediate physical space for healers, art practitioners, and creative beings to strengthen their communities and creative practices."

Three years after the initial shelter-in-place order was issued in the Bay Area, this project is both a commentary on life and a symbol of hope and how we can overcome hardship. As a tarot deck and now a community-centered event, *Tarot in Pandemic and Revolution* is a bold expression of resilience, resistance, and the courage to continue forging a path to justice and love.

"This [deck] is a historical document...it captures this moment that we were all in with the uprisings and revolutions and the deep changes and the loss that we're all experiencing at that time," noted Nomadic Press Founder and Executive Director J.K. Fowler, who collaborated on the project and published the deck in December 2021. "It also is a marker for us, of who was in the Bay Area at this particular time. Everyone who played a part in this deck is so much more than their craft, they're actually involved in their communities. They were advocating for change, and they're change makers themselves."

To learn more about the exhibition and artists of Tarot in Pandemic & Revolution, visit bit.ly/tjpr-447m

Generously funded by #StartSmall & First Republic Foundation

Event Details:

**CAST and Baldocchi Projects & Collaborations Present: *Tarot in Pandemic & Revolution*
Curated by Adrián Arias
March 25-April 15 2023**

Exhibition Opening & Illusion Show

Saturday, March 25, 2023

12 -4PM

447 Minna & The Parks at 5M

*Artist & Community Procession starts at Kapwa Gardens at 12pm

FREE - All ages welcome

RSVP bit.ly/tjpr-0325

Emceed by award-winning journalist [Chelis López](#) & Blessing by Jorge Guillermo Perez Molina

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES BY [LoCura](#), [John Santos Quartet](#), & [DJ TEAO SENSE \(Audiopharmacy\)](#)

POETRY READINGS BY San Francisco's 8th Poet Laureate [Tongo Eisen-Martin](#), [Kim Shuck](#), [devorah major](#), [Michael Warr](#)...and many more!

LIVE MURAL PAINTING with artists: [Cece Carpio](#), [Hugh D'Andrade](#), [Pancho Pescador](#)

SCREEN PRINTING with [Haight Street Art Center](#) featuring a 10th Anniversary print commemorating CAST's decade-long work. Designed by Oakland-based artist [Leslie Lopez](#).

BOOKS, author signings and tarot decks from publisher Nomadic Press

FOOD & DRINK by [Sarap Shop](#), [Tokachi Musubi](#), [Fluid Coop](#)

For the full program lineup, visit bit.ly/tipr-447m

Pop-up Gallery Hours: Fri-Sun, 12 -3PM
447 Minna Street, 2nd floor
Free (reservations encouraged) bit.ly/tipr-popup



*Curator Adrián Arias at the March 16 preview of "Tarot in Pandemic and Revolution" at 447 Minna.
Photo by Mogli Maureal*



Cards from the Tarot in Pandemic and Revolution deck published by Nomadic Press. Photo by CAST



The Illusion Show during the March 16 preview at 447 Minna featuring musician John Santos, Jenna Frisch, and artist/curator Adrián Arias. Photo by Mogli Maureal

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ABOUT COMMUNITY ARTS STABILIZATION TRUST (CAST)

Founded in 2013, Community Arts Stabilization Trust is a community-centered real estate nonprofit committed to ensuring artists and cultural workers can stay anchored where they create. We work in deep partnership with communities across the San Francisco Bay Area to model new ways to secure and steward affordable, inclusive spaces for creative and cultural expression. By applying real estate financing tools and structural models in innovative ways, building community knowledge and agency, and creating and holding space for arts activation, our programs and services have helped arts organizations build pathways to ownership, enabled artists to secure long-term affordable leases, and created dedicated spaces for cultural connection and exchange. Together, we are building a new real estate paradigm in the Bay Area — one that recognizes the essential role of arts and culture and gives us all the space to dream. **For more information, visit cast-sf.org and see what upcoming events are happening at 447minna.com. Follow @CASTSF on Instagram & Twitter and @SFCAST on Facebook.**

We are supported by:

[California Arts Council](#) | [First Republic Foundation](#) | [Hewlett Foundation](#) | [Kenneth Rainin Foundation](#) | [Kresge Foundation](#) | [San Francisco Arts Commission](#) | [#StartSmall](#) | [Walter & Elise Haas Fund](#) and supporters like [YOU](#)

ABOUT ADRIÁN ARIAS

Adrián Arias is a Peruvian-born visual artist, poet, performer, curator, activist, and cultural promoter, who brings together multidisciplinary artists to engage in community projects with messages of social justice, racial equality, climate change, peace, beauty, health, and hope in the San Francisco Bay Area. Adrián uses his dreams as creative initiatives, which he makes come true in performances and community projects. He has participated in international group exhibitions such as the **Venice Biennale**, **The Ibero-American Biennial**, **The Contemporary Museum of Barcelona**, and art residencies at the **de Young Museum**, **BenAmil** in Spain, Google's new Mountain View building and **Red Poppy Art House** in San Francisco. Learn more about Adrián at adrianarias.com.