Introduction

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This book brings into public view for the first time a unique deck of fortune-telling cards fashioned in the early decades of the twentieth century by the London-based magician and occultist Austin Osman Spare. It features his own designs and some of his most famous and mysterious symbols. The card deck is based on Spare's early work in the field of tarot and his own development of a new system of symbolism. The deck was created as part of Spare's personal exploration of the occult and his attempts to create a new system of visual language that could express the complex ideas of the magical forces he believed to be at work in the world. The cards are a testament to Spare's creativity and his commitment to the exploration of the unknown.

Even in the art world, Austin Osman Spare has often been unrecognized. With his radical and avant-garde approach, he was ahead of his time, and his work was often misunderstood and even rejected by the mainstream. However, in recent years, Spare has been rediscovered by a new generation of artists and thinkers who recognize the importance of his work and its relevance to the modern world. The exhibition of this deck is a part of this rediscovery and a celebration of the profound influence of Spare's art on the development of modern art and culture.