

Love it or hate it?

A conversation with **ROBERT PEVERIL** gives great insight into a fascinating mind and in turn a better understanding of his work, which he describes as “Marmite, either people love it or hate it.”

His art is an amalgamation of different media, threaded with his past life experiences and his distinct belief system; he classifies himself as a “warlock.”

Amy Forde, marketing and communications assistant at Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance (ROAR), said: “I tried to piece all these together over a conversation in ROAR’s office.”

Defining his art as “mixed media collage”, Rob’s most recent project has been to create his own set of tarot cards, an idea which has been a while in the making.

Rob explained that the oldest known cards came from Italy in the 13/14th century, adding: “All the noble courts had their own artist who would do tarot for them.” The tarot are split into two parts, the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana (Arcana meaning mystery). Opting to complete The Major Arcana, Rob added a few more cards to his deck which he thought should be included, totalling 41 cards.

Rob was always inspired by the tarot he saw on television and in films and he originally painted the images on cardboard and then varnished them to make them look medieval.

The Hermetic faith most strongly connects with his own beliefs, with its five elements threaded into his artwork: gold (earth), green aether (air), lightning (fire), mercury (water) and un-time (dimensional).

All of the 41 images are individual pieces of art, now digitalised with the help of ROAR and downsized into traditional tarot card size. He would like to sell the originals as prints or posters.

Tarot represents the journey between life and death and traditionally has focused on the man’s life. Rob chose to look at the life of the woman, his creation thus taking a feminist stance.

Discussing his journey as an artist, Rob has fulfilled many different roles in his past including working in a nursing home, modelling — something he still does now as a life model at ROAR — and hairdressing, but he has always practised as an artist too.

He has previously exhibited in London and, at the other end of the spectrum, a lot of his work has featured in local pubs and labour clubs in Chesterfield, a place where he lived for many years. He has also had his work published in Silk Milk magazine, an Australian publication distributed world wide.

Rob is a clairvoyant and tarot is his preferred medium.

He said: “I was the worlds worst hairdresser, but I like to think I am a good painter and a good artist. I like to think I am a good psychic.”

After a difficult time in his life, Rob came to live with a friend in Rotherham and it was while shopping in the town centre that he saw ROAR from the outside and came in to make an appointment, afterwards becoming a member.

Rob says of ROAR: “And it saved my life. I am not just saying that so you can look good in a magazine. That’s it really.”

With the support of ROAR, Rob has now written a play to accompany his original tarot deck. He plans to eventually exhibit all the pieces, while giving people readings with his printed deck. The play will also be performed as part of the event.

□ For further updates on Rob’s work and his upcoming exhibitions, keep up with ROAR: Twitter/Facebook/Instagram: @rotherhamroar



TOP LEFT: Phantasmağoria. TOP RIGHT: Temarey the Mermaid. BELOW: The Moon.

