

Clarity

An open guidebook to everyone interested in visual language and storytelling

By Bel Senlle

A practice to see the elusive obvious

When working with Clarity, we need to pay attention to

Forms

Directions

Elements

Shades/blank spaces

Rhythm

Velocity

Temperature

Transparencences

A question to my cards

“What’s relevant for everyone who’s starting to read with these cards?”

- 2 of swords + 7 of swords + 10 of wands



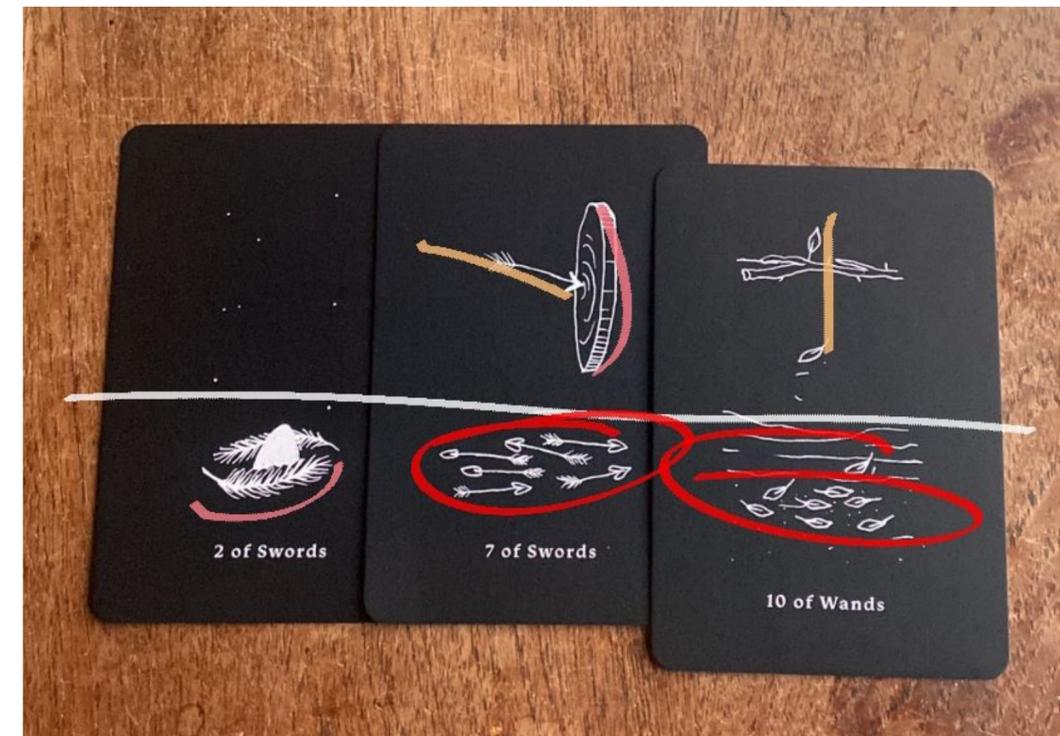
- *Nothing can be protected from fa(i)lling.
Failures and hits are, in fact, the same.
Let our biggest achievement be
no main aim,
but integration.*

Okay, how come?

- *Nothing can be protected from fa(i)lling. (2S + 7S)*
Failures and hits are, in fact, the same. (2S + 7S)
Let our biggest achievement be (7S)
no main aim, (7S + 10W)
but integration. (10W)

Pay attention to what I'm doing here, first of all I'm naming what I am seeing.
What do you see?

- An egg being protected in between two feathers.
- An arrow on point and 6 fallen on the floor.
- Leaves falling from a tree.



How to chose your words carefully

Now carefully, we start adding information we can easily relate to by our common experience.

- An egg being protected in between two feathers: an egg is something fragile, therefore It gives me the idea of being protected by being on the floor in held between two feathers. Feathers themselves are a fragile and soft element.
- An arrow on point and 6 fallen on the floor: the arrows as reminders of all the times that didn't hit the dartboard, until one did. We can think about words like perseverance, attention, clarity, observation, practice, frustration, aims, goals, competition, game, etc.
- Leaves falling from a tree. This is something we can't fight against it, autumn happens in a natural and cyclical way. The leaves on the floor mixing with the soil can let us think about words like surrender, integration, organic, natural, cyclical, introspection, "getting rid off", less, reduction, cleanser, etc.

As you can notice, in this example I'm not bringing beforehand any tarot theory like:

A 2 of Swords means introspective thinking, incubation of ideas, etc.

A 7 of Swords means borrowing ideas from the outside to nourish your own visions.

A 10 of Wands means collapse, realising we've got a lot and we need to reduce what's exceeded.

I am not adding other methods either, like:

Because you've got a 7, this talks to you in terms of identity.

Because you've got a 2, this talks about a slow process in your life that you might start experiencing with others.

Please, I don't want you to think that this is because I don't use myself other methods or that I don't think they can be applied to this tarot too.

Of course we can and I encourage you to do it. The reason why I'm pointing at this as something we should notice first, beforehand, is because in this way we get to see the bigger picture of what's going on, then we can move into the details / deeper wisdom / complex analogies with a structure that supports what we are saying.

If we start the other way around, we can:

- lose focus
- get lost easily in what's relevant for this reading in particular and what's not
- we can end up not answering the questions that we are asking
- we can bring up to the table information that they're not ready to receive yet, therefore, be disrespectful without that being our intention.

As some of my incredible teachers and colleagues preach:

read what you see, not what you think you're seeing.

(Some of them are Camelia Elias, Enrique Enriquez, Ale Lumiere, Sole Nuñez, Dario Alvarez, and many more).

A Sense of Unity

Another point that I think is important for reading any deck but Clarity in particular is:

Imagine everything belongs to the same visual landscape.

They are not separated symbols, they all belong to the same constellation, so try to relate them by creating analogies that make sense to you and to your context.

For this, you can practice by randomly matching pairs and imagining correspondences.

Another thing that can help you is to focus on the verbs, the actions; as actions can -generally- be more neutral of qualities.

For example, let's pay attention to the ones we have here:

2 of swords: to incubate

7 of swords: to hit

10 of wands: to fall

When we have this, we can imagine as well what's the line that relate them to each other. If we incubate something -in the context of what's this tarot deck bringing to ourselves- we can therefore think we are willing to learn something, if that thing is going "to hit", we can think that what we learn might help us be accurate in our with the deck, and if then "it falls", we have to also be able to get rid of the pre-conceptions we will gain by using this deck to build a personal way of seeing the tarot (or at least, get rid of what we don't want to carry with us).

About the elements in Clarity

You will notice that in this deck you will find elements of many kind, in the same suit: cups and water, swords, feathers, arrows, air, circles, coins, earth, mountains, soil, wands, fire, leaves, trees.

The intention behind this was to help us to expand our vocabulary.

I was noticing how some of my students were making assumptions without observing the cards (like, naming something soft in terms of the feathers but forgetting that it does say swords explicit, or talking about water and emotions when we have literally 3 cups drawn).

Pay attention as well to the forms of what's represented: are those champagne glasses?

When do we use them? Oh, we use them for celebrations...

Are those tea mugs? When do we use them? What's the atmosphere like when we make tea for someone else? What are we trying to evoke?

Geometry and symmetry

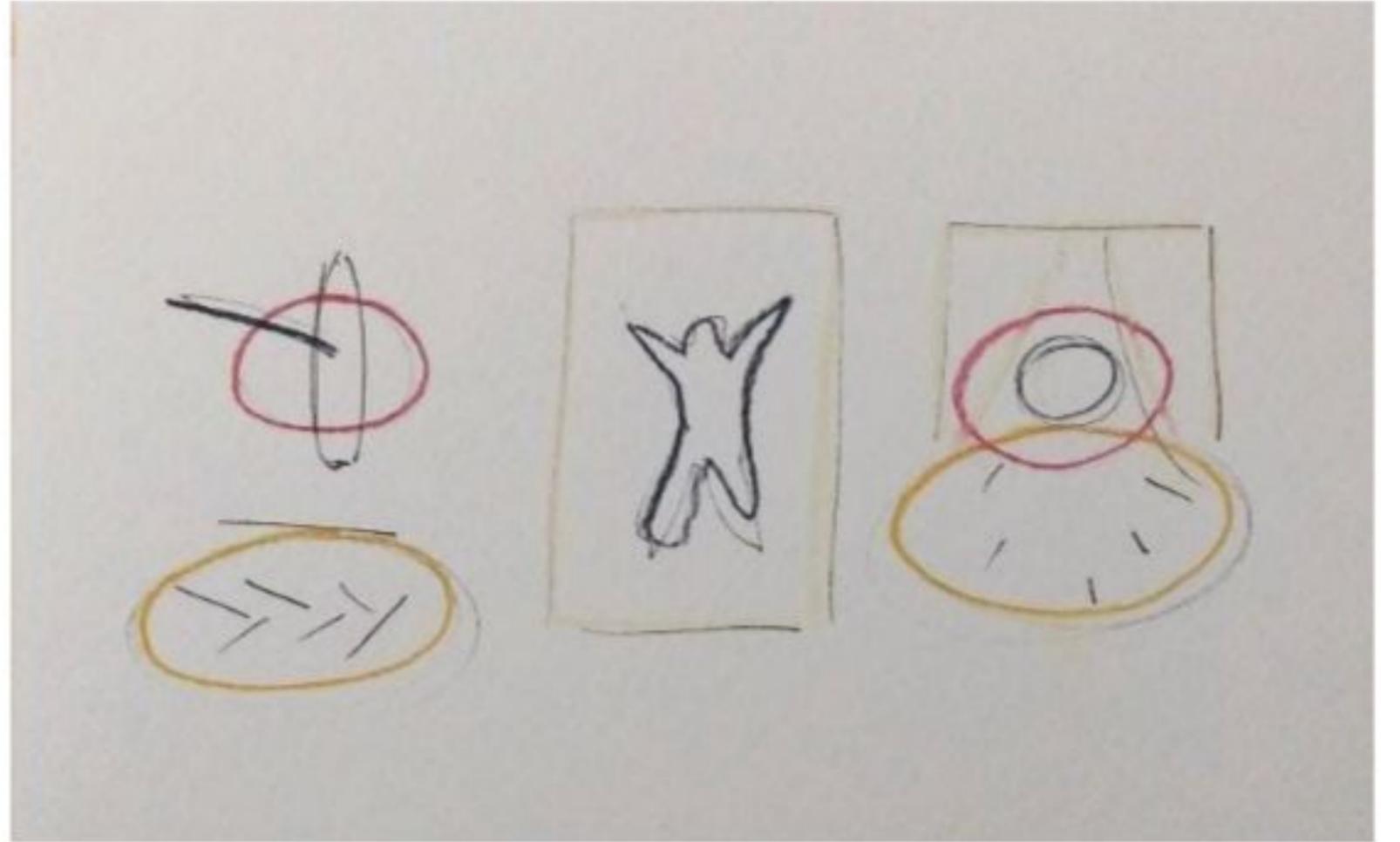
Seeing what's hidden in the visible

With the explicit consent of my client (which in this case was also a friend), in a totally anonymously way and just for the sake of teaching, I'll share with you this example:

She asked: "will my lover reach me at some point?"

These were the cards we received:

- 7 of swords
- Fool
- Hierophant



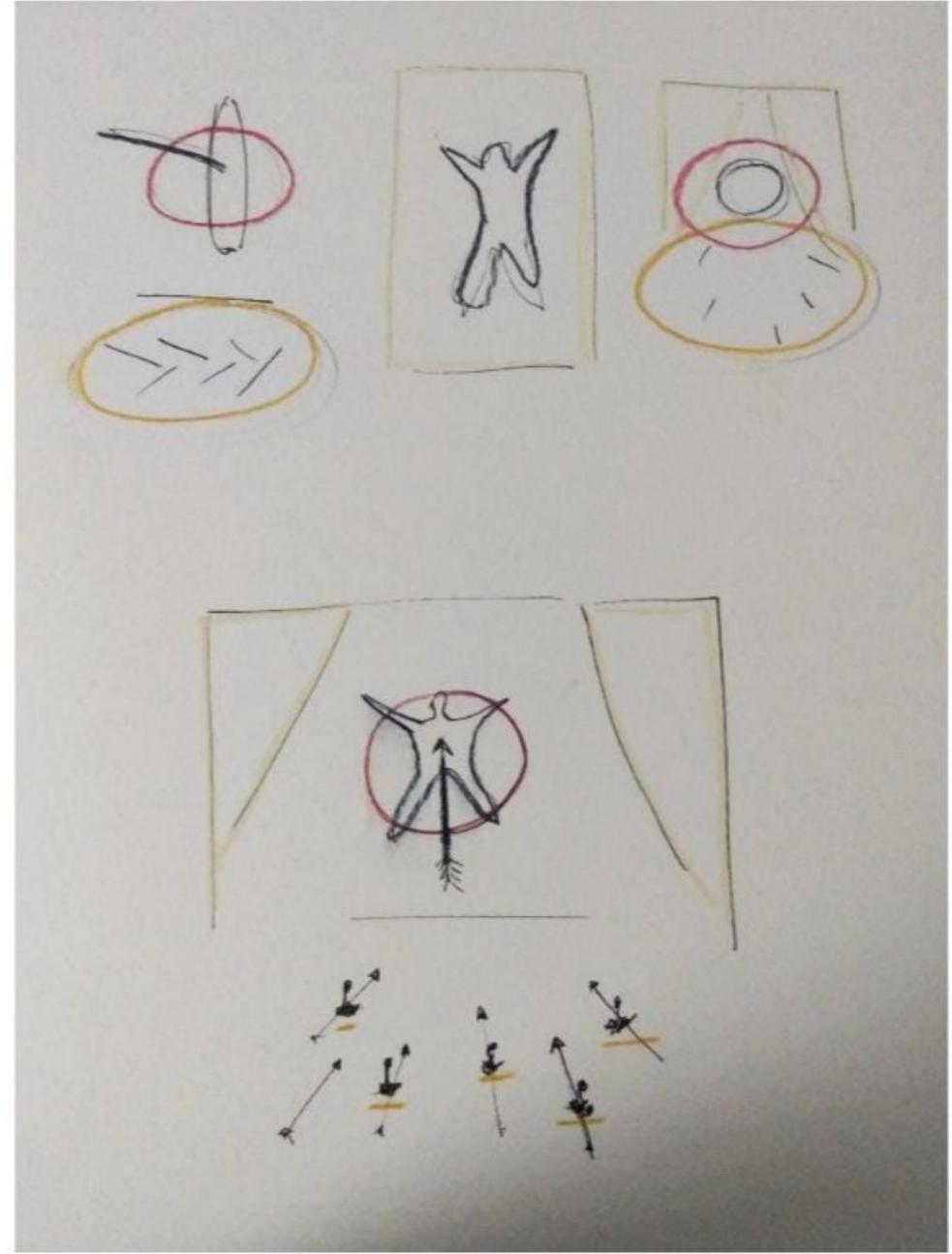
“Of course he will, everything is ready for a scene.
Unless you want this to become public, avoid foolish exposure.”

So, let's come back to what we were saying before:

- 7 of Swords: to reach the aim
- Fool: to become crazy
- hierophant: to be exposed

* Notice how these preliminar verbs are just keys that help us in organising our visual text, they can be different to you. What's important here is that you can find words, verbs that make sense to the context of the questions or the themes that you are working with. I've chosen these ones as they were making sense to the context that we have: the querent is expecting a message from someone she's having an affair with, therefore attributing words like “exposure” to the Hierophant (as we are seeing a scene with people observing the show) makes sense.

What's interesting here? Look at how I organised the visuals...



I wouldn't like to be haunted by these arrows in the middle of a scene, would you? Haha

* A student once made a transparent version of Clarity which was amazing for observing these points, but we can (and we must) use our imagination.

This is, I believe, one of the many gifts that reading tarot have: it stimulates our capacity of imagination, it stimulates our intuition and makes us aware of the way in which we perceive things around us.

There are many, many other layers about Clarity (and tarot decks) that we could keep exploring; but I think they require other spaces / formats to be properly deeply explored as they deserved.

My background is in visual arts and movement (improvisation & printing specifically), and around tarot specifically my background is mainly in Marseille Tarot, Golden Dawn decks, playing cards and Lenormand (I'm particularly attracted to storytelling, divination and creativity).

So, my practice is pretty rooted in these topics. I'm aware this will be useful to many, and many others will have to leave these ideas aside in order to use these cards in a personal way.

Go for it!

+ If you want to work with me on 1:1, I also offer mentorships.

+ If you speak Spanish, there's an amazing 6 weeks workshop recorded aaaaall focused on Clarity. Ask me for the link!

+ I offer 1:1 sessions in London or online. It's always a pleasure to work with my clients.

+ I also offer mentorships for everyone interested in making an oracle / tarot deck. Drop me a message if you would like to work with me!

+ If you want to get to know more about my ideas, events, workshops, projects and sessions, Suscribe for free to my newsletter :) and follow my instagram / podcast coming in June!

Thank you for being here and for your attention.

Bel.

www.belensenlle.com

@belsenlle