

WASSERMAN PROJECTS 2017

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 - Readings from 4pm-7pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 - Readings from 11am-3pm / Artist Talk 3pm

* Readings first come first serve unless reserved in advance.

To schedule rsvp@wassermanprojects.com

What Can Tarot Cards Teach Us About Climate Change?

CONTEMPORARY ART PIECE ASKS PARTICIPANTS TO CONTEMPLATE NATURE AND THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

It can be hard to face a future we fear. Divination has been used by cultures throughout the world to help people navigate difficult futures. Artist James Leonard has adapted Tarot cards to help others process what he calls "overwhelming climate anxiety." Since the Summer of 2016, he has traveled the country to over 30 different communities and given several hundred climate change divinatory readings inside a special, hand-sewn tent.

His next stop is Detroit, Michigan at Wasserman Projects. On March 24 and 25, Leonard will be inside his tent, offering free, private climate change readings. Everyone is invited. Readings last approximately 15 minutes each and are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leonard calls his artwork *The Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies*. From the outside, the tent looks like a cross between a post-apocalyptic wigwam and a children's blanket fort. The rainbow interior is made out of brightly colored recycled clothing. It required over 500 hours of hand sewing to complete. Detailed tea-colored ink paintings of different plant and animal species—each reportedly affected by climate change are pinned to the outside.



Photo credit: Catherine Nolan

Artist James Leonard is traveling the country using Tarot readings to inspire intimate conversations about the impacts of climate change.



Photo credit: Wendy Whitesell

Can the ancient cultural practices of divination help us face an uncertain future under climate change? One artist believes so.

Leonard explains, "A lot of thought has gone into *The Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies*. I wanted to create a space for contemplation, where participants can slow down, articulate questions and find clarity. Climate change is a universal concern. Art is the perfect place for expressing and evaluating concern."

James Leonard is an internationally exhibited artist. Leonard began *The Tent* as 2015 artist-in-residence at the Boston Center for the Arts. Then in 2016, he made the piece roadworthy during a residency at MASS MoCA. When not on the road, he lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



Photo credit: Melissa Blackall

The Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies creates a space for visitors to contemplate climate change.

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