

tarotivity

innovation labs at the dalí

among his many firsts, dalí was the first renowned artist to recreate the complete deck of 78 tarot cards. he did this by giving his own very dalinian interpretations of the familiar card deck. in addition to indulging his penchant for mysticism, this project gave him the chance to do what he did better than any other artist: make people re-see something commonplace—or, as we like to say in the innovation labs, make the familiar strange. in creativity work, one of our biggest blocks comes from our limited perspective, and because the better we know an area or a discipline, the less capable we are of seeing with fresh eyes, finding ways to make the familiar strange allows us to open up new perspectives and see situations and ideas anew without our usual filters.

using our dalí image cards, we invite you to try the following tarot activities to gain some new perspective on your challenge or situation:

1. print out card sheet (dalí image cards, which can be found at: <https://thedali.org/the-dali-on-line/>) and cut out individual cards
2. shuffle the cards and place them face down in front of you
3. using one of the prompts on the next page (there are 3 to choose from), take the top 3 cards and place them on the guides in order (i.e., first card drawn goes on first guide, second card on second guide and so on)
4. tell the story of your challenge or situation using the images as thinking prompts (see example on last page)

tips: this is a great team building activity as well. if using in that way, draw the cards, place in the guides and then give everyone 5 minutes to write down their stories before having a share-out. to facilitate using these for a group, you can print out the cards in a larger size, use multiple sets or snip the images and place in the guides as inserted images for a virtual session.

prompt 1: past, present, future (use for new perspectives on any situation, relationship, product/service, etc.)

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prompt 2: well, better, learnings (use for a fresh take on a retrospective session)

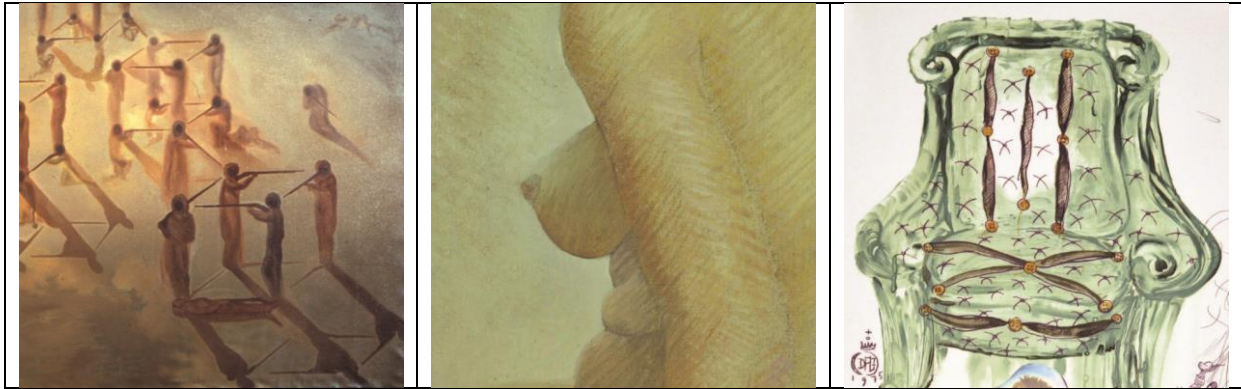
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prompt 3: situation, obstacle, advice (use for thinking about a challenge or situation in a new way)

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example:

prompt 1: past, present, future (use for new perspectives on any situation, relationship, product/service, etc.)



the challenge that i am working on is “how might i handle my kids' online schooling in a new and more effective way.”

past: this first image feels very aggressive to me and brings up a lot of feelings associated with schooling. in the past, both before and after schooling went online, school was often seen in a more adversarial way—the kids felt that the teachers were working against them and were often in league with parents to keep them hostage and make them perform unnecessary tasks.

present: this image makes me think of nurturing if we think of the breast in a symbolic sense. in the present, it feels as if we have swung completely the other way (as relates to the aggressive and adversarial past), with teachers and parents, including myself, bending over backwards to create a safe space for kids and ratcheting back on the pressure and expectations. perhaps this is a normal response given the situation, but it is probably only an effective response in the short term because most kids need more structure and discipline in their routines to help with learning and with socialization in general.

future: this image brings several things to mind, but the dominant feeling that i get from this chair is both comfort and structure. that is, the chair looks comfortable, with the cushions and upholstery, but it also is a very structured

piece, with the armrests and the elaborate chair back. what it makes me consider most is how i might create a new normal, where i create an environment for the kids that blends some of the comfort of what we are doing presently but places it within a clearer structure that makes times for working, expectations for results and norms for school days versus weekend days less of a fly by night affair and more of a standard practice.