

Rivar Yoder

**CHROMATIC VEIL TAROT:
REIMAGINING THE RIDER-WAITE-SMITH DECK THROUGH
MODERN TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Instructor: Ann Riley-Adams

Tarot cards are a deck of seventy-eight cards traditionally used for fortune-telling, reflection, and playing games. A Tarot deck is divided into two card types. The Major Arcana contains twenty-two named or picture cards which represent symbolic themes like Death or Justice. The remaining fifty-six cards are the Minor Arcana, containing four suits (Wands, Cups, Pentacles, and Swords) of fourteen cards each.

With debated origin, Tarot started as an Italian card game in the fifteenth century before being used as an occult indoctrination tool around the French Revolution. From there various iterations evolved, before arriving at the most famous interpretation of Tarot. In 1909, Arthur Edward Waite commissioned Pamela Colman Smith to illustrate his ideals into the cards and published them through the company William Rider & Son. More commonly known as the Rider-Waite deck, Smith's designs have grown to be the standard most modern Tarot decks go by.

This project aims to interpret these ideas through a modern lens and explore the production process of a Tarot deck. With seventy-nine total illustrations, the Chromatic Veil Tarot deck features twenty-one cards of the Major Arcana inspired by scratch art and stylized forms. Each suite of the Minor Arcana consists of fourteen illustrations which, once put together, form separate panoramic images, each focused on one of the four elements. All of the cards have a backing design. Rivar used the drawing program Krita to illustrate the deck using a variety of clipping techniques. Her project development thrived on the feedback of peers, and she utilized multiple printing trials both on and off campus.

Rivar Yoder is the daughter of Kristie Walters, Wendell Yoder and Roxanne Wilson. She was raised in Cando, North Dakota where she graduated high school in 2022. Rivar is majoring in Computer Information Systems with a concentration in Web Specialist as well as a minor in Graphic Design. In the past three years, she has been consistently on the Dean's List, is pursuing an Honors in the Major, serves as Upsilon Pi Epsilon's media manager as well as head of their Social Committee, and is newly initiated into the Philomathean President's Honorary Society. Upon graduation in May 2026, Rivar intends to work as a front-end web developer and designer.