

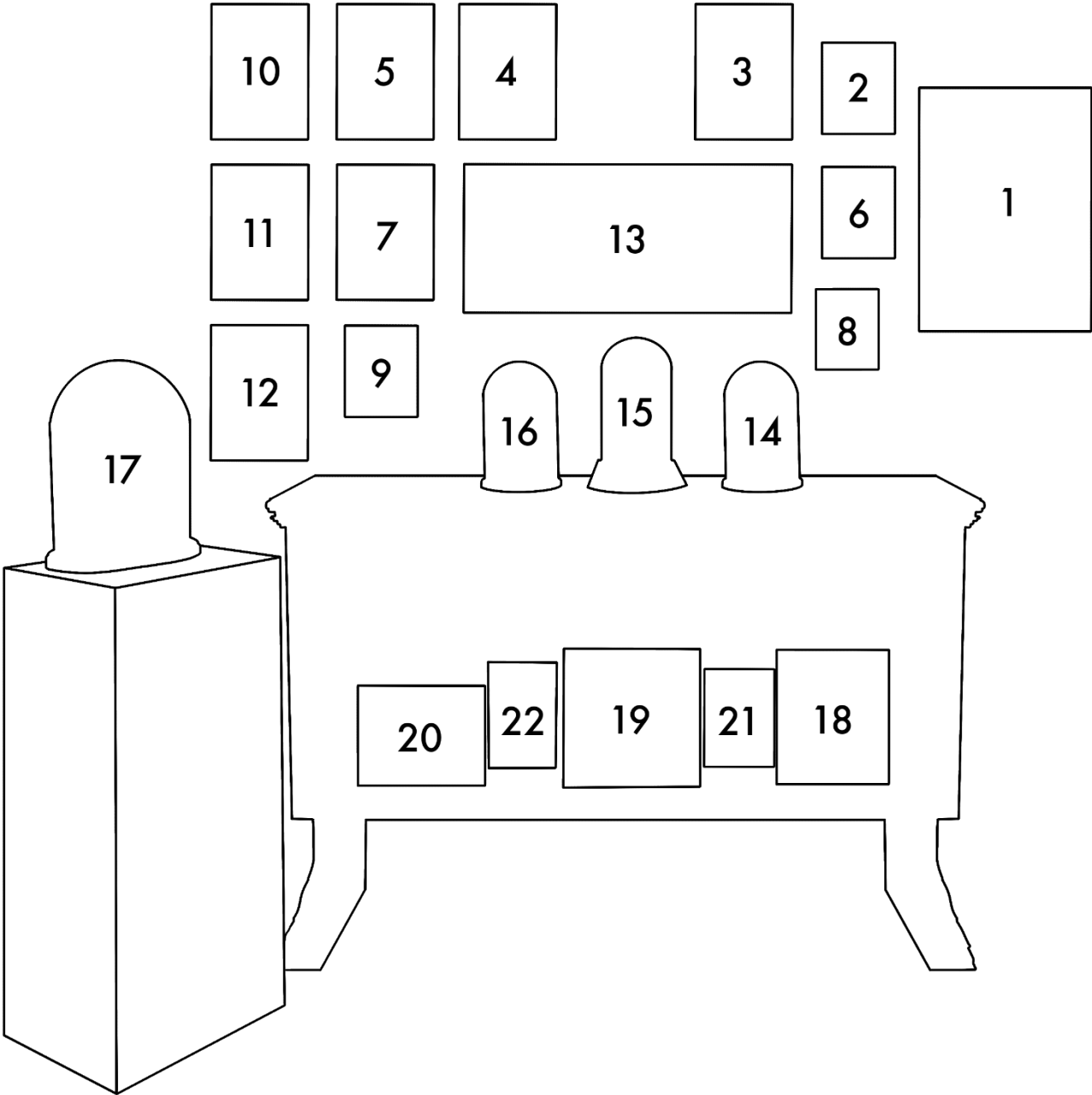
Contents

Wall 1	5
Identification Key to Wall 1	5
1. Information Board	5
2. A Communion of Christophers	6
3. Pilgrimage Badges	7
4. Safe Travels	8
5. Securing a Livelihood	10
6. Good Luck in Your Exams	11
7. Lucky Coins	12
8. Lucky Pigs.....	14
9. Sacred Bees.....	15
10. Prognosticatory Cakes	16
11. Magic Beans (and Seeds)	18
12. Natural Oddities	19
13. Eyes Cabinet.....	21
14-16. Amulets Against Eye Contact	23
14. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Plum) (2019).....	23
15. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Green) (2019).....	23
16. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Blue) (2019).....	23
17. Venus Eye Trap (2), 2023.....	24
Large Cabinet	25
18. Sacred Equines.....	25
19. Scottish Folk Magic.....	27
20. Lucky Fish	29
21. Turtles All the Way Down	30
22. Cats Still Remember That They Once Were Gods.....	32
Wall 2	34
23. Amulet Table.....	34
24. Amulets of Childhood	39
25. Amulet for an Anthropocene Child (2024)	43
26. Hands and Separation	43
27. Amulet Against Estrangement (2019).....	49

28.	Red Threads.....	50
29.	Magic Plants	53
30.	Bad News Blooms	54
	Wall 3	55
31.	Venus Eye Trap (1), 2023	55
	Plant Lives.....	55
32.	Plant Lives – Rowan Cabinet (2021).....	55
33.	Plant Lives – Dandelion (2021)	56
34.	Plant Lives – Nettle (2021)	56
35.	Plant Lives – Clover (2021).....	56
36.	Plant Lives – Birds-Foot Trefoil (2021).....	56
37.	Health and Healing.....	56
38.	Supernatural Helpers	59
	Wall 4: Insectarium	62
39.	Lepidoptera Wall (2019)	62
40.	Bee Jar (2021)	63
41.	Bee-rometer (2021)	64
42.	Reverend Kirby’s Specimen Box (2022)	64
43.	Black Arches Moth (2020)	64
44.	Urban Bounty (2021).....	65

Wall 1

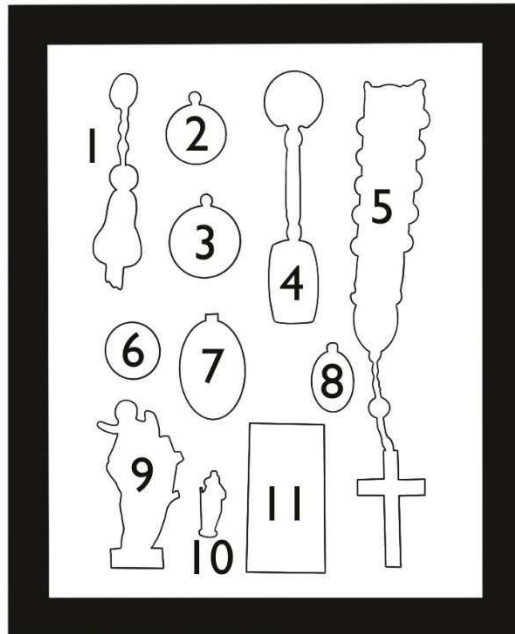
Identification Key to Wall 1



1. Information Board

2. A Communion of Christophers

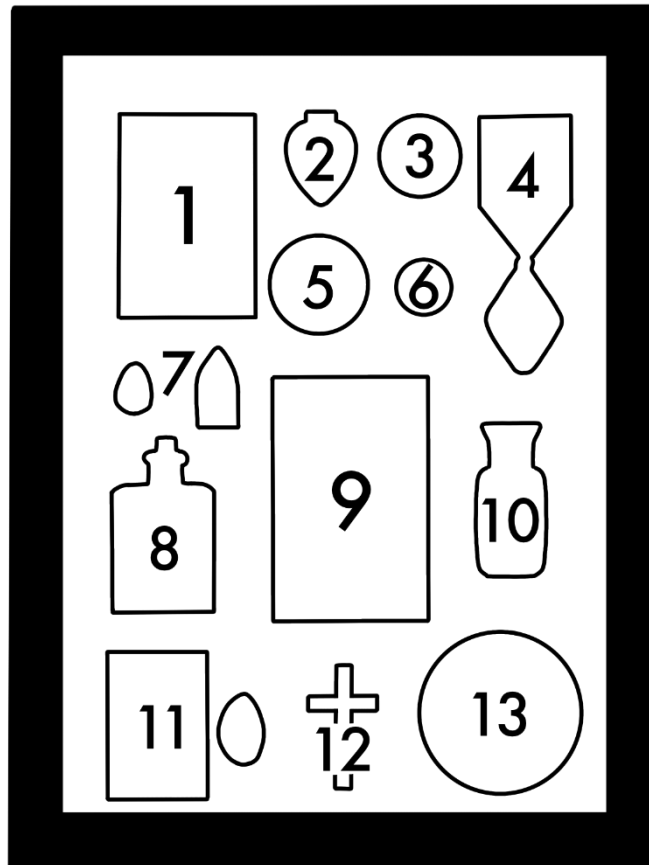
Patron saint of travellers in the western Christian tradition



- 1 Garlic bulb amulet with St Christopher, Greece
- 2 St Christopher medal with 1940s motorcar, USA
- 3 St Christopher medal, UK
- 4 St Christopher keyring with lenticular traffic lights on reverse, Germany
- 5 St Christopher chaplet, to be hung on rear view mirror, UK
- 6 St Christopher medal, Spanish
- 7 Plastic St Christopher medal, USA
- 8 St Christopher medal, UK/Italy
- 9 Replica of medieval St Christopher badge, England
- 10 Miniature St Christopher statue, France
- 11 St Christopher badge, USA

3. Pilgrimage Badges

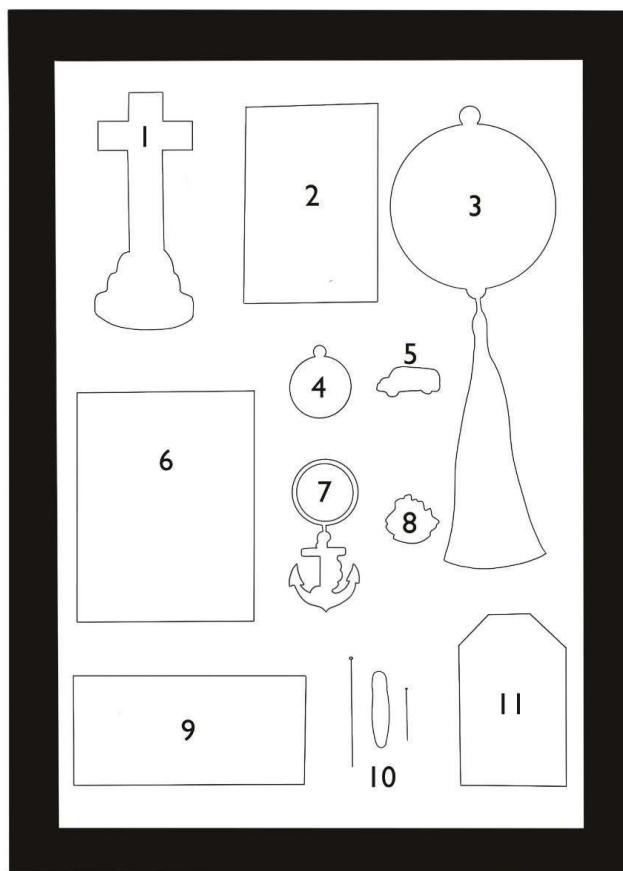
Items acquired on pilgrimage often acquire some of the sanctity and efficacy of the shrine they come from.



- 1 Souvenir magnet from Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- 2 Mid-20th century pendant sold to pilgrims on Hajj, Saudi Arabia
- 3 Souvenir token from the Cathedral Church Of St. John The Divine, New York.
- 4 Portsmouth Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes medal, UK
- 5 Pilgrim to St Albans 1983 badge, UK
- 6 Buckfast Abbey pilgrimage medal, UK
- 7 Blessed amulets from Buddhist shrine, Thailand. These are often offered in return for a donation.

- 8 Water from the Chalice Well, Glastonbury. Neo-pagan.
- 9 "Flowers from the Holy Land" pilgrimage souvenir, 1930s.
- 10 Holy water from Lourdes, France.
- 11 Souvenir photo and badge from pilgrimage to the grave of the Baba Sali, Morocco.
- 12 Pilgrimage souvenir cross marked "Jerusalem, 1983"
- 13 Rosary beads from pilgrimage to Rome to see Pope Benedict, around 2006, donated to the artist.

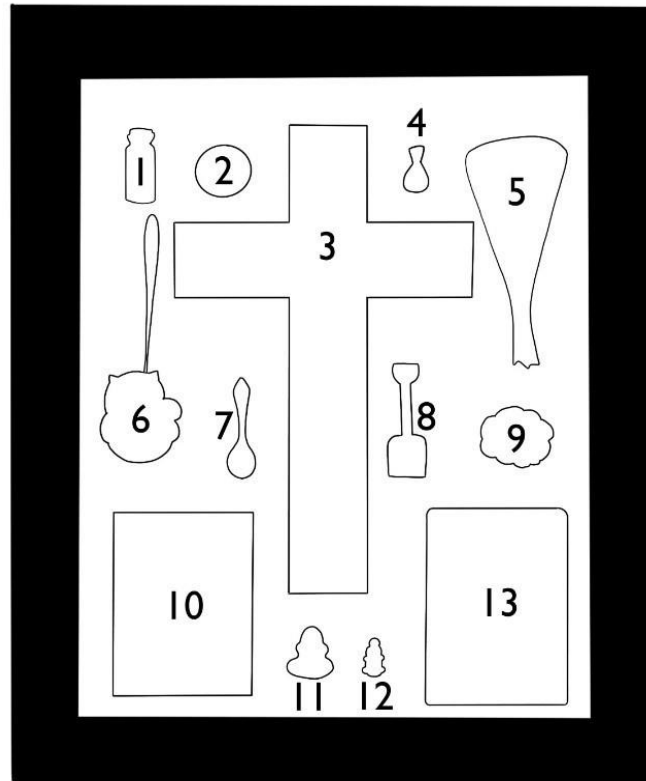
4. Safe Travels



- 1 Dashboard crucifix, UK
- 2 Laminated *tfilat haderech* (Jewish traveller's prayer) card
- 3 Rear-view mirror amulet with St Nicholas and Madonna and Child, Russia
- 4 St Peter (patron saint of mariners) medal, UK
- 5 Car shaped Milagro (folk charms/*ex votos*) Mexico
- 6 Rear-view mirror hanging plaque with Quranic verses, UK Muslim community
- 7 Fouled anchor keyring, to assure safe sea journey, UK
- 8 Ship cut from a coin, used as a travel amulet, UK
- 9 Dashboard travel amulet, Russia
- 10 Pins, attached to the clothing on a journey to protect from evil spirits, Hassidic Judaism.
- 11 *Omamori* to prevent traffic accidents, Japan.

5. Securing a Livelihood

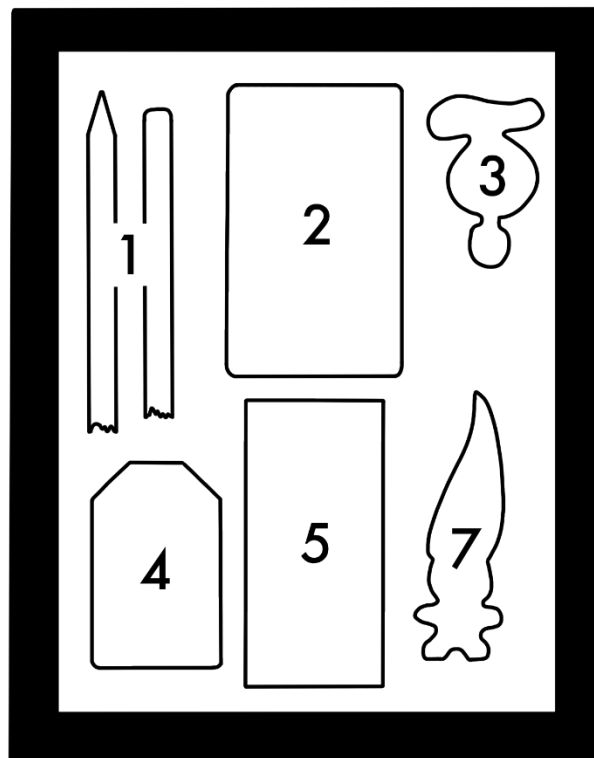
Charms and amulets to draw money and prosperity



- 1 "Money drawing" dyed green rice for inclusion in mojo bags/conjure hands, Hoodoo, USA.
- 2 Fortune coin to invite prosperity, Feng Shui, China
- 3 Wealth attracting folk art cross with coins, Mexico
- 4 Moneybag charm, after charm given by Romany Travellers to customers, UK
- 5 Cornucopia amulet, Spain
- 6 *Maneki Neko* (Lucky Cat) handbag charm
- 7 Mouse on a spoon money drawing charm, to be kept in wallet, Russia
- 8 Money-drawing spade, to be kept in wallet, Russia
- 9 Dollar-drawing resin charm, Mexico.
- 10 Amulet for success in business, Feng Shui, China

- 11 *Pra Pidta* amulet (“covered eye Buddha”), to summon business investment and unexpected windfalls. Buddhist, Thailand.
- 12 Money frog charm, to attract wealth. Feng Shui, China
- 13 Prayer card to St Joseph for steady employment, Catholic.

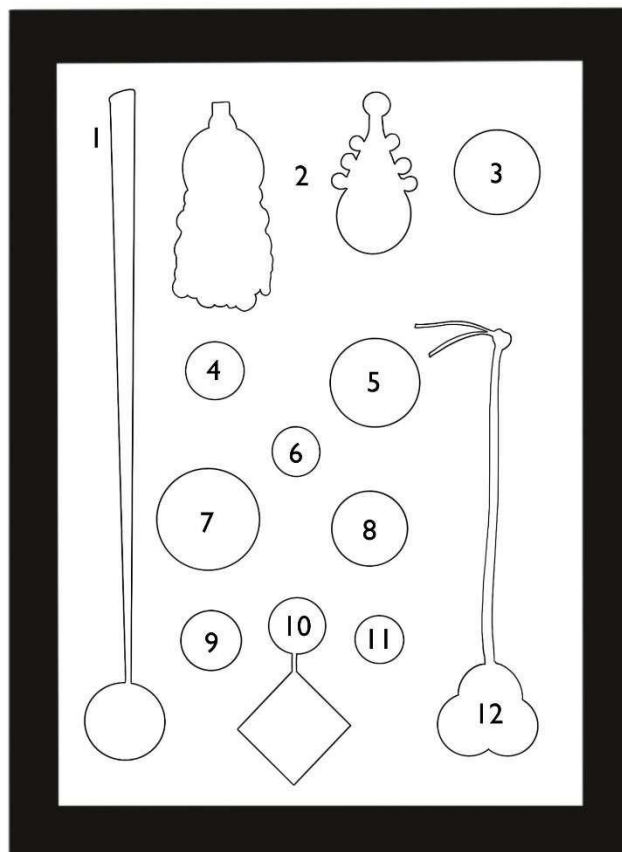
6. Good Luck in Your Exams



- 1 Broken pencil, Philippines. There are several pencil-based exam superstitions in the Philippines that are supposed to ensure success: 1) have your pencils blessed by a priest before the exam; 2) have your pencil sharpened by someone who previously scored highly in the exam; 3) never re-use a pencil used in an exam - once finished the exam, break your pencil in half, and leave the hall without looking back.
- 2 Prayer card to St Joseph of Cupertino, the levitating friar, the patron saint of students (especially during exams).

- 3 *Shani Raksha Kavach* pendant to remove the unlucky influence of Saturn and remove obstacles to success. Charms and amulets are popular during the highly competitive board exams in India.
- 4 *Omamori* amulet for passing exams, Japan.
- 5 Lucky KitKat, Japan. In Japan, "KitKat" is pronounced as "Kitto Kattu", which sounds like the Japanese phrase "Kitto Katsu," which means "You will surely win". This phrase is often used to wish students luck, especially when they are preparing for exams. The association between KitKats and exam success has become so ingrained in Japanese culture that Nestlé, the company producing KitKats, actively markets them as a good luck charm for students, like this special lucky version. It also has space on the back for you to write your own encouraging message.
- 6 Troll pencil topper, UK. During the 1990s and early 2000s these were popular exam charms, and I'm told they still are.

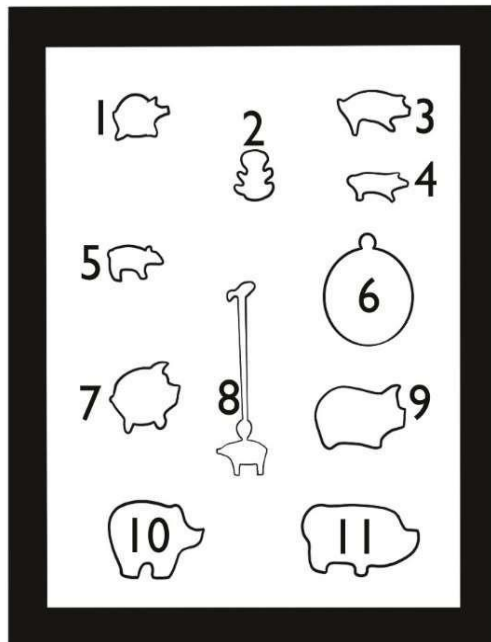
7. Lucky Coins



- 1 Lucky penny necklace, UK
- 2 Amuletic coin dangles, Kochi, Afghanistan
- 3 Lucky penny, Ireland
- 4 Lucky 5-yen coin, Japan
- 5 Fortune coin, China
- 6 Lucky sixpence, UK
- 7 Novelty "lucky coin", UK
- 8 Hindu temple token, India or Myanmar
- 9 Shilling given as part of a "poor oot" after a wedding celebration, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 10 Lucky rabbit nickel, Canada
- 11 Lucky penny, USA
- 12 Chinese New Year decoration with 6 auspicious coins (China)

8. Lucky Pigs

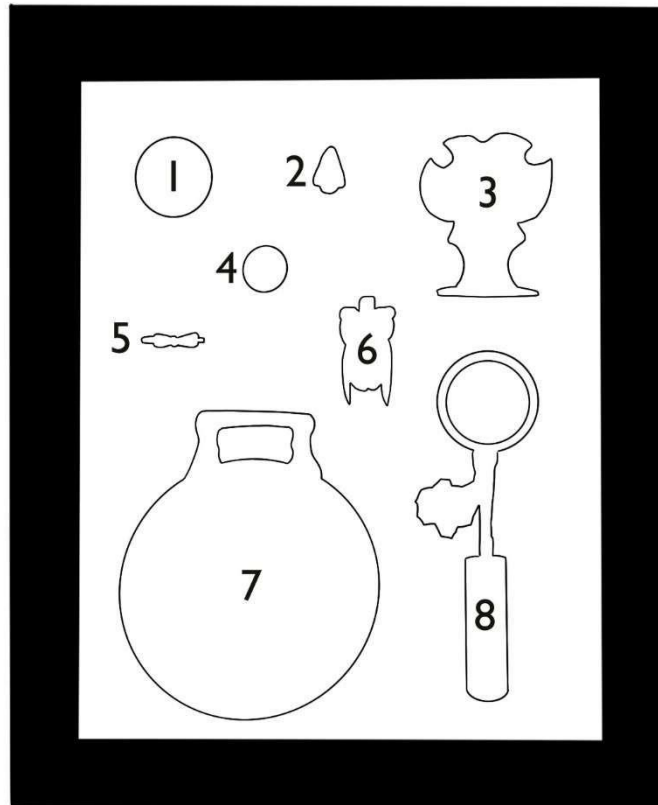
Pigs have a strong association with luck and particularly with prosperity in cultures around the world.



- 1 "Touch Wood" pig charm, UK
- 2 Lucky pig charm, Russia
- 3 Lucky pig charm, German
- 4 Lucky pig charm, UK
- 5 Bovine bone lucky pig charm, European
- 6 Pig zodiac medal, Vietnam
- 7 Lucky pig charm, UK
- 8 Early plastic lucky pig charm, USA
- 9 Zodiac pig carving, China
- 10 Lucky brass pig, highly sought after as an exam mascot when the artist was a teenager. UK
- 11 Zodiac pig carving, China

9. Sacred Bees

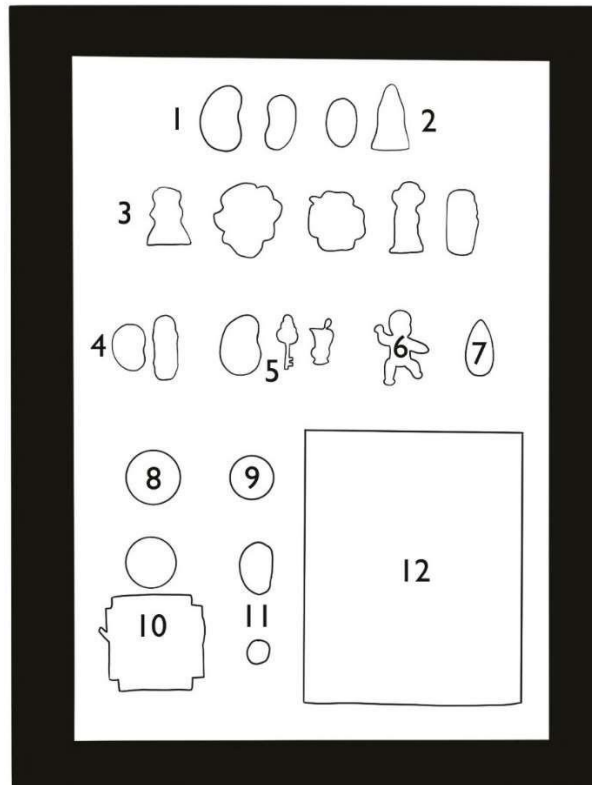
Bees frequently have an association with industry and success.



- 12 Reproduction of an ancient Greek coin with bee, sacred to Athena. Greece
- 13 Roman bee amulet, c.100-300 CE. Italy
- 14 Alva Museum replica of Pre-Colombian gold bee amulet, Colombia
- 15 “Lucky bee” charm, USA
- 16 Feng shui adjustment ring with bee, meant to aid career progression. China
- 17 Fertility amulet in the form of two bees, Buddhist, Thailand
- 18 Horse brass in the form of a beehive (skep). Horse brasses are commonly thought to be amuletic, but this is actually a Victorian romantic invention, they are simply decorative. England

- 19 “Bee rescue” keyring, containing emergency fructose to revive tired bees. This object is lucky for the bee, rather than its human carrier

10. Prognosticatory Cakes

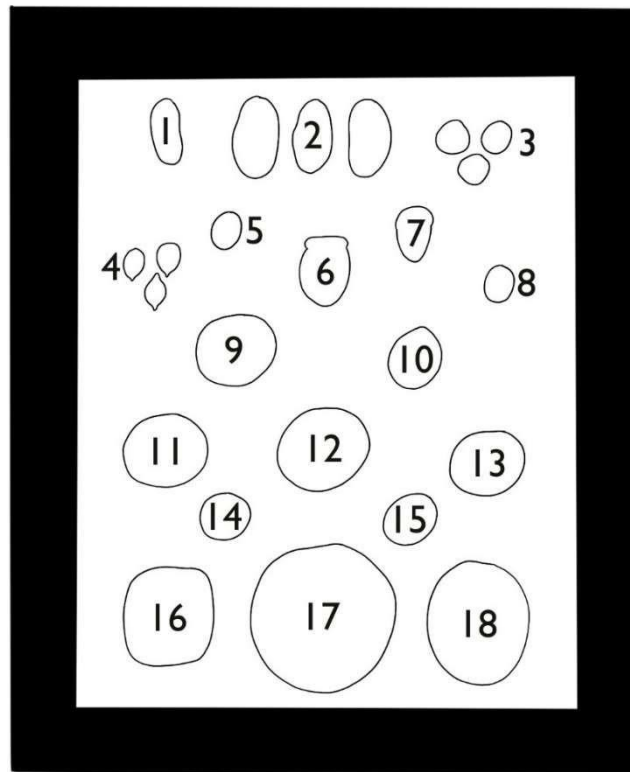


(1-3. *Fèves* (beans), traditional charms baked into French *galettes de roi* eaten on the Feast of the Epiphany. The finder is crowned king of the feast and gets good luck for the next year.)

- 1 Original feve, a dried bean, and plastic child Jesus feve in the shape of a bean
- 2 Traditional ceramic Mary and Jesus feves
- 3 Modern *fèves*
- 4 Spanish *Roscón de reyes* cake charms, a dried bean and baby Jesus charm. If you get the baby Jesus in your cake, you get a year of luck. If you get the bean, you must pay for next year's cake.

- 5 Portuguese *Bolo Rei* cake charms and dried bean. If you get the charm in your cake, you get a year of luck. If you get the bean, you must pay for next year's cake.
- 6 King Cake baby charm, New Orleans, USA. If you get the baby Jesus in your cake, you get a year of luck. Associated with Mardi Gras
- 7 Almond cooked into Finnish Christmas porridge. Finding it grants luck for the year.
- 8 *Vassilopita* coin baked into new year bread in honour of St Basil, Greece. The finder receives a year of luck.
- 9 Lucky sixpence, baked into Christmas puddings, UK
- 10 Charms baked into the barmbrack cake on Halloween to predict the coming year:
 - A ring – a year of luck
 - Piece of cloth – a year of poverty
 - A pea – you won't be married this year
 - A stick – a year of arguments, or an unhappy marriage
 - A coin – a year of wealth
- 11 Dried bean and pea, baked into Twelfth Night cake in medieval/Early Modern England. The man who found the bean was King for the night, the woman who found the pea was Queen. The forerunner of the more familiar pudding charms.
- 12 Christmas pudding charms, UK

11. Magic Beans (and Seeds)



- 1 Tonka Bean, used in hoodoo rituals for manifesting desires. USA
- 2 Mojo beans uses in hoodoo conjure hands, for manifesting desires, USA
- 3 *Huayruro* seeds against Mal de Ojo (the Evil Eye), South America
- 4 *Putrajeevak* seeds, to protect children, India
- 5 Lotus seed, used in Puja. Hindu, India
- 6 “Loaded” nutmeg, used as a gambler’s charm, hoodoo, USA
- 7 Acorn, carried as a fertility charm, England
- 8 *Guacalote* seed, used to remove curses in Santeria, African diaspora
- 9 *Ojo de Buey* (Bull’s Eye) seed, to protect against the Evil Eye, South America
- 10 *Laghu Nariyal* (a tiny coconut), protects from black magic and malign planetary influences. Hindu, India
- 11-13 Three conkers, kept in the pocket, to keep away colds. Italy

14-15 *Caesalpinia bonduc* "sea bean"

16 *Entada phaseoloides* "sea bean"

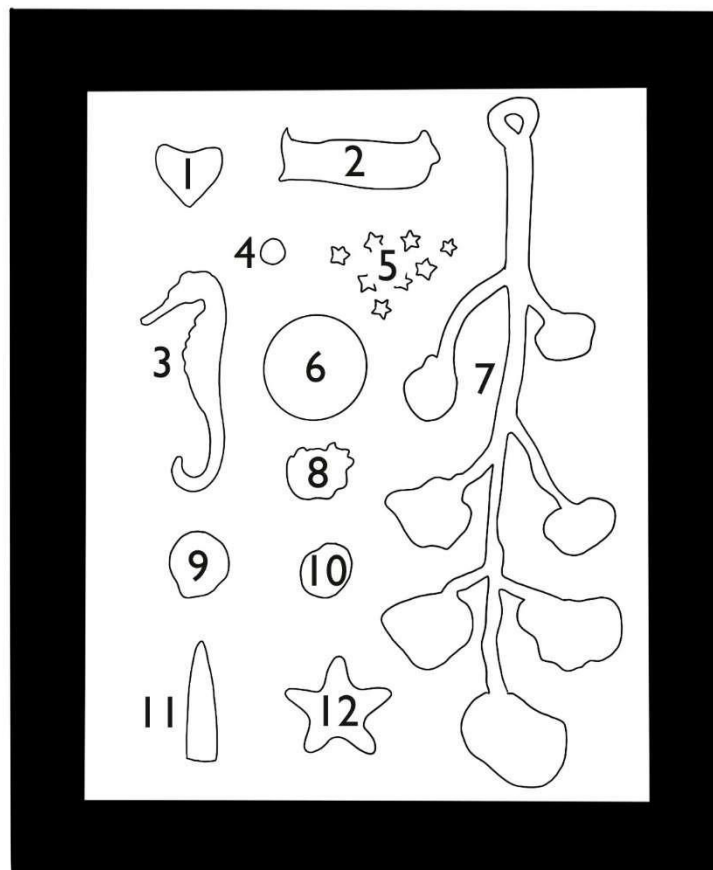
17 *Entada gigas* "sea bean"

18 *Entada rheedei* "sea bean"

Sea beans - these occasionally washed up on Scottish beaches and were considered a sure talisman for easy childbirth.

12. Natural Oddities

Natural curiosities and rarities were often considered semi-magical and kept as talismans, or ground up and eaten for their supposed curative powers.



- 1 Fossilised sharks tooth, used as an amulet (believed to be the tongues of serpents that St Paul turned to stone), Europe

- 2 Mermaid's purse, used as a money charm, UK
- 3 Dried sea horse (resin replica), used as an amulet, Europe
- 4 Fossilised trilobite, believed by some Northwestern First Nations peoples to grant protection from arrows. Pre-USA
- 5 Crinoid fossils or "star stones", once thought to be fairy coins. Also thought to grant victory in battle. England
- 6 Pressed four-leaf clover, for luck. Europe
- 7 Hag stones, with natural holes in them, hung up to protect cattle from being "hag ridden". Scotland
- 8 Fern fiddle, used in weather magic, UK
- 9 Fossilised sea urchin, called a thunder stone, thought to protect against thunder and lightning. UK
- 10 "Oak apple", a type of wasp gall, used as a charm against witchcraft. England
- 11 Belemnite fossil. Thought in the middle ages to be thunderbolts, they were thought to protect from lightning and ground up and used as medicine. England
- 12 Dried starfish to be burned "for health", Aymura tribe, Andes

13. Eyes Cabinet

1		2	3	4	5	28		29	30	33		34	49		50	51		52			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	31		32	35		36		37		53		54	55	56	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	38		39	42		43	44	45	57		58		59	60	61
20			21	22	23	24	40		41	46		47		48		62		63	64		65
			25		27			42		43	44		45		57		58		59	60	61
			26					40		41	46		47		48		62		63	64	

- 1 *Ex voto* eye, Mexico
- 2 Blessed *dzi* bead with eye pattern, Tibet
- 3 Ceramic bead with eye pattern, Peru
- 4 Bead with eye pattern, Turkey
- 5 Islamic Quranic text pendant with *nazar* (evil eye), South Asian for UK diaspora market
- 6 Small bottle with *nazar*, uncertain origin
- 7 Eye agate, Mediterranean
- 8 Shiva shell/St Lucy's Eyes – India, Italy
- 9 Plastic *nazar* pendant
- 10 Islamic pendant in the shape of an eye, with Quranic text, South Asian for UK market
- 11 Eye pendant with *hamsa* charms, USA
- 12 Evil eye pendant, Southern Europe
- 13 Owl charm with *nazar*, Turkey
- 14 All-seeing-eye charm, USA
- 15 Triangular *nazar* pendant, Turkey
- 16 All-seeing-eye charm on bovine bone, origin uncertain
- 17 Heart shaped evil eye pendant, USA
- 18 Nazar link charm, USA
- 19 Evil eye link charm, origin uncertain
- 20 All-seeing-eye of God icon, Russia
- 21 Glass *nazar*, Turkey

- 22 Evil Eye pendant, UK
- 23 *Cornicello* and red evil eye charm, Italy
- 24 Cross with evil eye, Greece
- 25 Small evil eye charm, USA
- 26 Eyes *milagro*, Mexico
- 27 Eyes *tama* (*ex voto*), Greece
- 28 *Anting-anting* amulet with eye and inscription ROMA, Philippines
- 29 Viking *Mjolnir* (Thor's hammer) amulet with eye pattern, Scandinavia
- 30 Red evil eye charm, UK
- 31 Tree of Life charm with nazars, Turkey?
- 32 Pink heart charm with evil eye, UK
- 33 Wall hanging with St Michael, Ichthys fish and a glass *nazar* pendant, Turkey
- 34 Garlic amulet with image of Madonna and Child, and evil eye charm, Greece
- 35 Jade Buddha's eye amulet, to be affixed to something rather than worn, China
- 36 Two modern Buddha's eye charms, UK
- 37 Modern Buddha's eyes charm, China for UK market; Buddha's eyes pendant, Tibet
- 38 Gold conch shell charm with eye, Southern European?
- 39 Starfish charm with evil eye, Southern European?
- 40 Clam shell charm with evil eye, UK 41 Clam shell charm with evil eye, UK
- 42 Hindu *rakhi* bracelet with evil eye, India
- 43 Pendant with *trishul* and eyes of shiva, India
- 44 *Wedjat* eye amulet, Egypt; modern *wedjat* eye charm, UK
- 45 Blue *nazar* charm, Turkey; Eyes of Jaganath amulet, India; white nazar charm, Southern Europe.
- 46 All-Seeing-Eye ring, USA
- 47 Eyes *ex voto*, Mexico
- 48 Crying eye depression *ex voto*, Mexico
- 49 Nazar bracelet, Southern Europe/Turkey; *magen david* charm with evil eye, Jewish; sword of St Michael charm with evil eye, possibly Turkish.
- 60 Bracelet with *nazar* beads, Greece; Eye link charm, UK
- 61 Eye *tama* (*ex voto*), Greece
- 62 Red teardrop with evil eye, Italy
- 63 Evil eye charm, UK
- 64 Two patinated evil eye charms, USA

- 65 Glass *nazar* charm, Turkey; “Good Luck” charm with Eye and other lucky symbols, USA
- 66 Tiny *nazar* charms on a chain, Southern Europe
- 67 Green heart evil eye charm, UK
- 68 Blue heart *nazar* charm, origin uncertain
- 69 Large acrylic evil eye charm, UK; Large glass *nazar* charm, Turkey
- 70 *Nazar* bracelet, Cyprus; *nazar* link charm, Turkey
- 71 Patinated evil eye in sunburst, USA
- 72 Link charm for Italian-style charm bracelet, Italy; white heart *nazar* charm, Turkey; red glass evil eye charm, Southern Italy
- 73 Red heart charm with *nazar*, origin uncertain
- 74 Patinated evil eye charm, USA
- 75 Evil eye charm, USA
- 76 Red heart charm with *nazar*, origin uncertain
- 77 Feng shui eye amulet (though shows clear influences of Turkish *nazar*), to protect against jealousy, China
- 78 Tiny evil eye charm, USA

14-16. Amulets Against Eye Contact

14. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Plum) (2019)

Thread-painting embroidery in a goldwork embroidery surround, glass cloche

15. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Green) (2019)

Thread-painting embroidery in a goldwork embroidery surround, glass cloche

16. Amulet Against Eye Contact (Blue) (2019)

Thread-painting embroidery in a goldwork embroidery surround, pearls from a childhood necklace, glass cloche

The Amulet Against Eye Contact series is a response to the difficulty of living in a world designed for neurotypical (or non-autistic) people. Like many other

autistic people, I struggle with social communication. Most noticeably, I find it difficult to make eye contact, particularly with people I don't know well. However we live in a world where a lack of eye contact is distrusted, and 'soft', social skills are demanded. The amulets express a frustration with being told to 'just try harder', to 'just be less anxious', to endure the noise and light and most of all the people who insist on staring, staring into my eyeballs. Unable to meet people's eyes, others often respond with frustration and even aggression, insisting, forcing me to look at them even though it's painful. I have created an eye outside of myself to draw the hostility away. For once it is the neurotypical viewer who is unsettled, trapped in a circle of my making – looking at the eye looking at them looking at the eye.

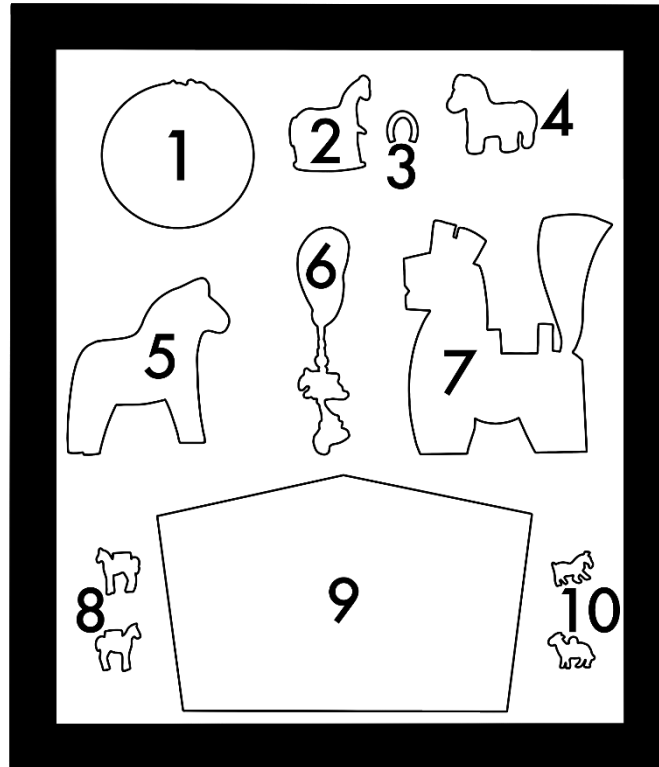
17. Venus Eye Trap (2), 2023

Embroidery floss, wire, silk gauze, interfacing, glass cloche

The Venus Eye Traps are two soft sculptures made using stumpwork embroidery, mounted in glass cloches. They are part of an ongoing series of works about eye contact and my discomfort with it. The eyes are at once beautiful and unsettling, mirroring the mixture of fascination and aversion I feel about eyes.

Large Cabinet

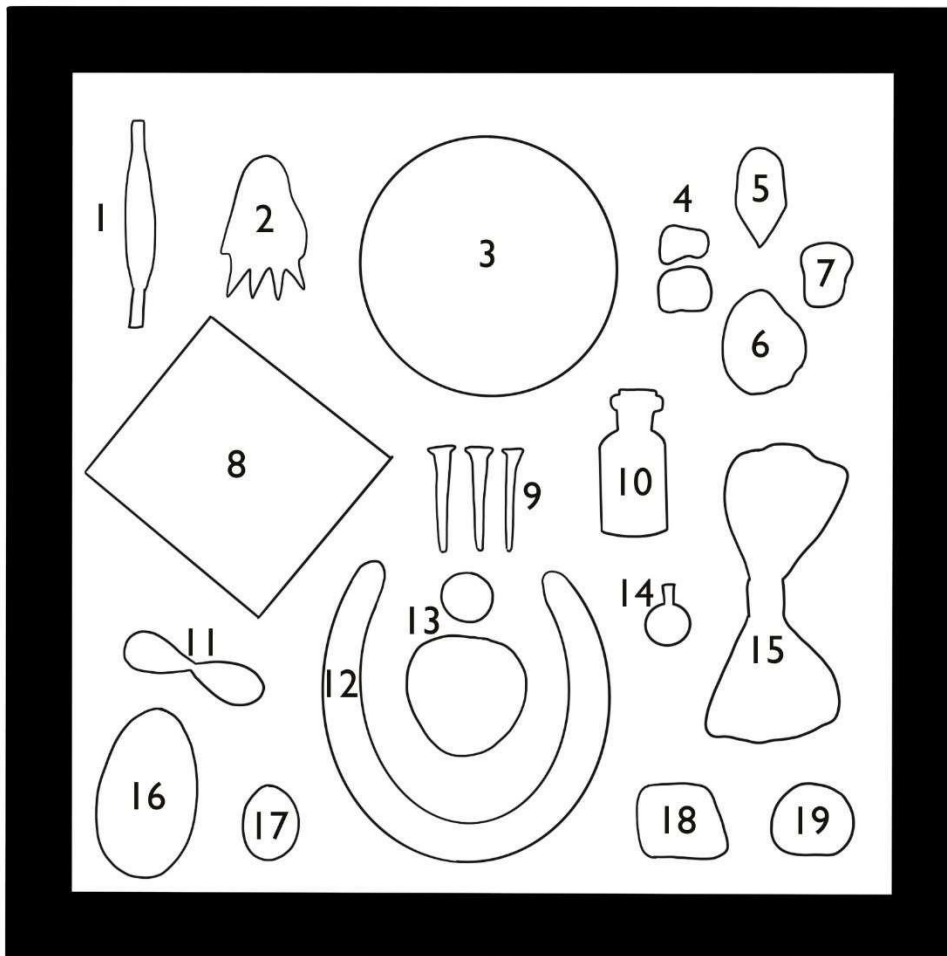
18. Sacred Equines



- 1 Brown jade horse amulet, China. Horses are the seventh sign in the Chinese zodiac and are associated with success and the swift arrival of good fortune.
- 2 Celtic votive offering in form of a horse, Britain.
- 3 Lucky horseshoe charm. Contrary to popular belief, the amuletic quality was originally not the horseshoe itself, but the fact it was made of iron.
UK
- 4 “Lucky” horse figure belonging to the artist at around age 8.
- 5 Dala horse, Sweden
- 6 Zodiac horse charm, China.

- 7 *Yawata-uma*, from the Hachinohe region of Japan. They were initially made to be given as offerings at shrines. They are now symbols of good luck and are often given as wedding favours.
- 8 White Horse whiskey brand promotional lucky charms. 1960s-70s? UK
- 9 Shinto *ema* (prayer board with spirit horse to take your prayers to the gods. Japan.
- 10 Donkey lucky charms, UK.

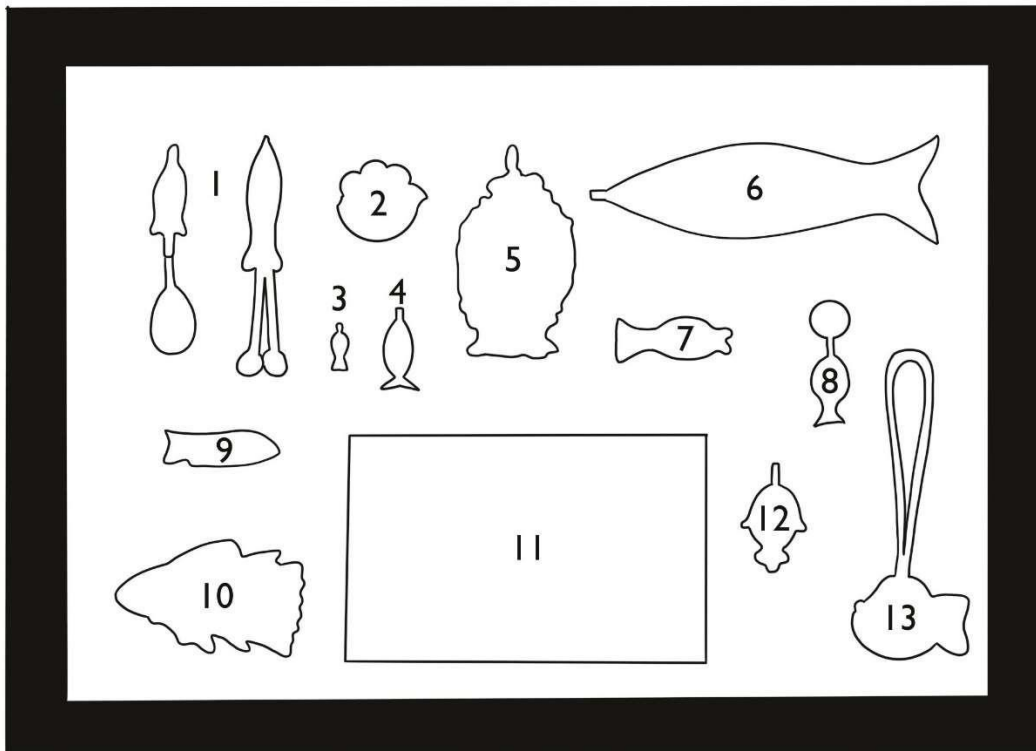
19. Scottish Folk Magic



- 1 Rowan twig wrapped with red thread, used for protection from illness and to detect if an illness was caused by witchcraft.
- 2 Dried mole's foot (reproduction), a remedy against toothache.
- 3 Bannock, used in a wide range of folk magic. Placed in the wall of a byre to protect livestock.
- 4 Piece of amber, considered to protect against blindness.
- 5 "Elf-shot" - Neolithic flint arrows thought to be the bolts from the end of faerie arrows that shot at humans or animals to cause harm. When the bolts were found, they could be kept as a talisman to turn back the harm on the faeries.
- 6 Hag stones with natural holes, tied onto cattle to prevent them being "hag-ridden" by witches.

- 7 White stone taken from Loch Ness, considered to be blessed by St Patrick, and used in healing rituals.
- 8 Bones of a linnet (reproduction), worn on the person to preserve health (mentioned in the trial of Elspeth Culsetter, 1644).
- 9 Iron nails, hammered into the door lintel to repel witches.
- 10 Witch bottle, traditionally containing objects such as hair, nails, pins, red thread and other anti-witchcraft ingredients, wine or human urine. These were buried under the floor or interred in the walls of houses, near a door or window, to draw in and contain any witches or evil spirits.
- 11 Red thread, the knotting and unknotting of which was used in much healing magic.
- 12 Iron horseshoe, to protect the house against fairies. An open pair of iron scissors would achieve the same effect.
- 13 Two sea beans (see "Magic Beans", above). Considered a particularly powerful amulet for a safe birth and often kept by midwives.
- 14 Quartz crystal typically used with "words of power" (a spell or incantation, often Catholic-tinged) and dipped into water, which was then drunk as a curative. Traditionally carved into an orb shape.
- 15 Green thread (the colour of the fairies), used in healing magic.
- 16 Iona green marble, blessed by St Columba, and considered to protect against fire, shipwreck, and miscarriage.
- 17 Agate, thought to help heal wounds when pressed against them.
- 18 Jasper, thought to aid in difficult childbirth.
- 19 Carnelian, thought to aid in difficult childbirth.

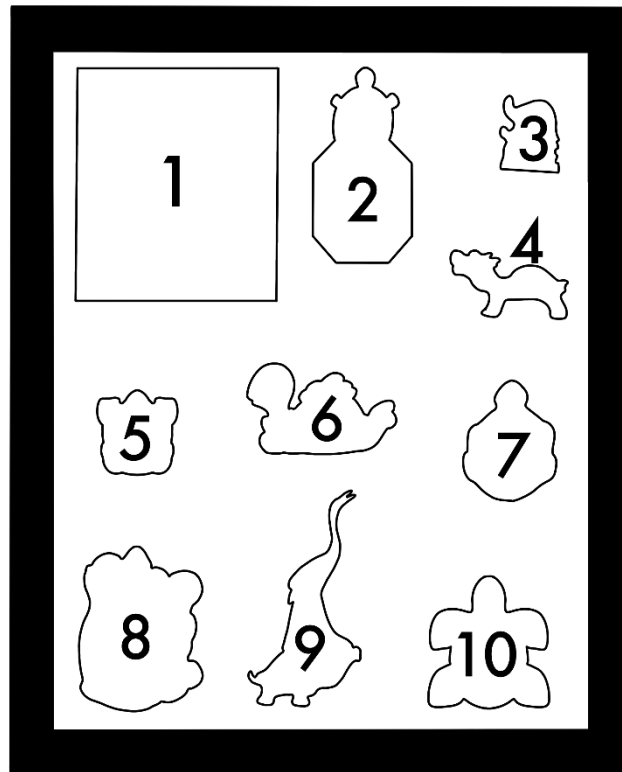
20. Lucky Fish



- 1 Amuletic fish ornaments, Kochi, Afghanistan
- 2 Prosperity Koi fish bead, Taoist, China
- 3 Fish charm with evil eye
- 4 Jesus fish charm
- 5 *Gaurmatsya* fish pendant, Buddhist, China
- 6 Fish amulet, contemporary but of a traditional type. Morocco
- 7 Fish amulet bead, Phoenician, Lebanon
- 8 Evil Eye and fish charm, Mediterranean
- 9 Bone fish bead, Philippines.
- 10 Fish amulet from late antique period, Egypt
- 11 Novelty fortune-telling fish, UK
- 12 *Hamsa* with fish, Morocco

13 Lucky goldfish phone charm (Japan)

21. Turtles All the Way Down

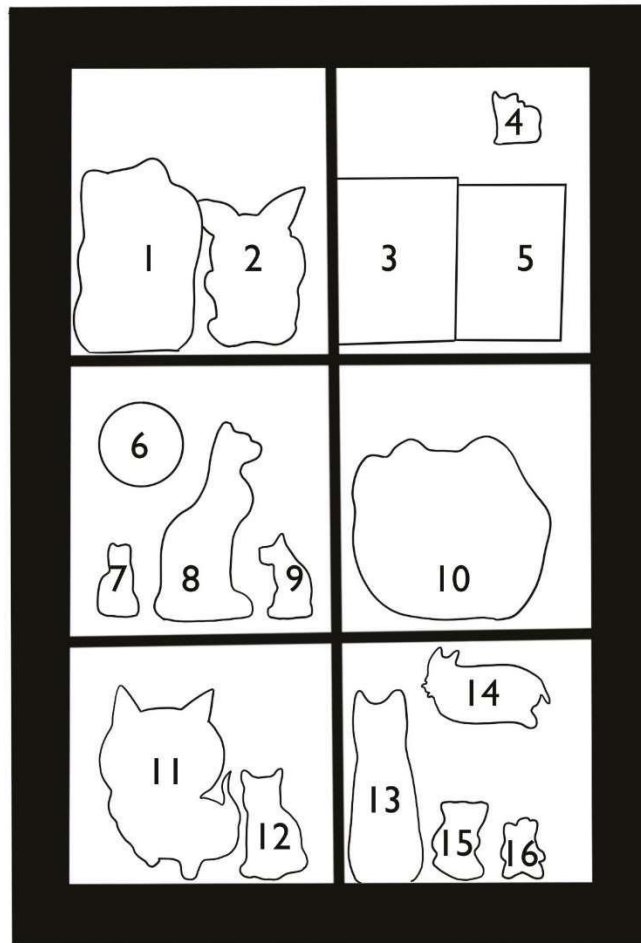


- 1 Gold money tortoise, Japan. These gold tortoises are kept in the wallet to attract wealth.
- 2 Large gold money tortoise, Japan. This one is traditionally sold at the Asakusa Kannon Temple, also known as *Sensōji*, in Asakusa, Japan.
- 3 *Phaya tao ruean* amulet, Thailand. Turtles feature extensively in Thai amulets. One of the incarnations of the Buddha is supposed to have been a giant turtle who saved a group of shipwrecked sailors by compassionately giving itself to be eaten. This amulet represents health, longevity, wealth and protection from harm.
- 4 *Lóngguī* ornament, China. Combining a dragon and a turtle, this is a Feng shui amulet representing courage, determination, fertility, longevity, power,

success, and support. Placing it in the south-western corner of the house is supposed to bring wealth and career success.

- 5 Spirit Turtle/Tortoise (the distinction is not made in China). One of the Four Intelligent Beasts (auspicious animals), turtles represent longevity and are used as talismans for long life and health.
- 6 Teeny Tiny Terrapin. A Kinder Egg toy from 1992, considered lucky by the artist throughout the 1990s.
- 7 Agate tortoise, India. Tortoises are the second avatar of the god Vishnu, so hold an important place in Hinduism, and in the Vastu Shastra system of architecture and space (similar to Feng Shui).
- 8 Money Tortoise, China. A tortoise standing on coins represents a long and prosperous life.
- 9 Crane riding on a tortoise's back, China. In Feng Shui, the combination of crane and tortoise symbolises a long, healthy, happy life.
- 10 Soapstone turtle, Neo-pagan. Sold with the promise that it would create "positive, calming energies".

22. Cats Still Remember That They Once Were Gods



- 1 1950s *maneki neko*, Japan
- 2 Lucky black cat mascot, Netherlands
- 3 Lucky Manx cats, Isle of Man
- 4 Cat *milagro*, representing either an actual cat, or domesticity. Mexico
- 5 Ceramic cat figure sold as a housewarming charm, UK
- 6 Cat zodiac medal, Vietnam
- 7 Czech glass Egyptian Revival cat bead, UK
- 8 Miniature replica of the Gayer-Anderson cat, late Antique Egyptian representation of the goddess Bastet
- 9 Blue faience cat amulet depicting the goddess Bastet (Egypt c.300 BCE)

- 10 Modern *maneki neko*, Japan
- 11 *Bakeneko yokai* (cat spirit) figure from the video game Yokai Watch. Its two tails mark it out as a supernatural cat. Japan
- 12 Lucky black cat figure, UK
- 13 Water buffalo horn carved cat, India. In India cats were usually considered bad luck, but the western association with good luck is beginning to spread.
- 14 Replica of medieval badge with cat catching a mouse, with the motto "I've caught the mouse". The cat here represents good, and the mouse evil. England
- 15 New Age "spirit animal" cat carving, China but bought in the UK
- 16 Pendant of a cat *nahual* (a kind of spirit animal) sold by indigenous Mayan people. Very much a response to Western tastes as there is no history of domestic cats in the area. Guatemala

Wall 2

23. Amulet Table

The museum in miniature.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	
29	30	31	32	33	38		78	79	80	81	90	91	92	93
34	35	36	37	82			83	84	94	95	96	97		
39	41	42	43	44	85		86	87	100	101	104		105	
40									102	103				
45	46	47	48	49	88		89		106	107	108			



Lucky symbols



Symbols from nature



Package amulets



Textual amulets



Supernatural helpers

- 1 Lucky star *feve*, France, and two lucky star charms, European.
- 2 Star of Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories
- 3 Lucky star pendant with seven other lucky symbols, UK
- 4 *Magen david* (Shield of David, or Jewish star) pendants
- 5 *Chai* (Life) symbol pendant (Jewish), *Om* symbol pendant (Hindu)
- 6 Lunula/crescent charms, European/Slavic
- 7 Evil Eye charms, assorted mediterranean countries

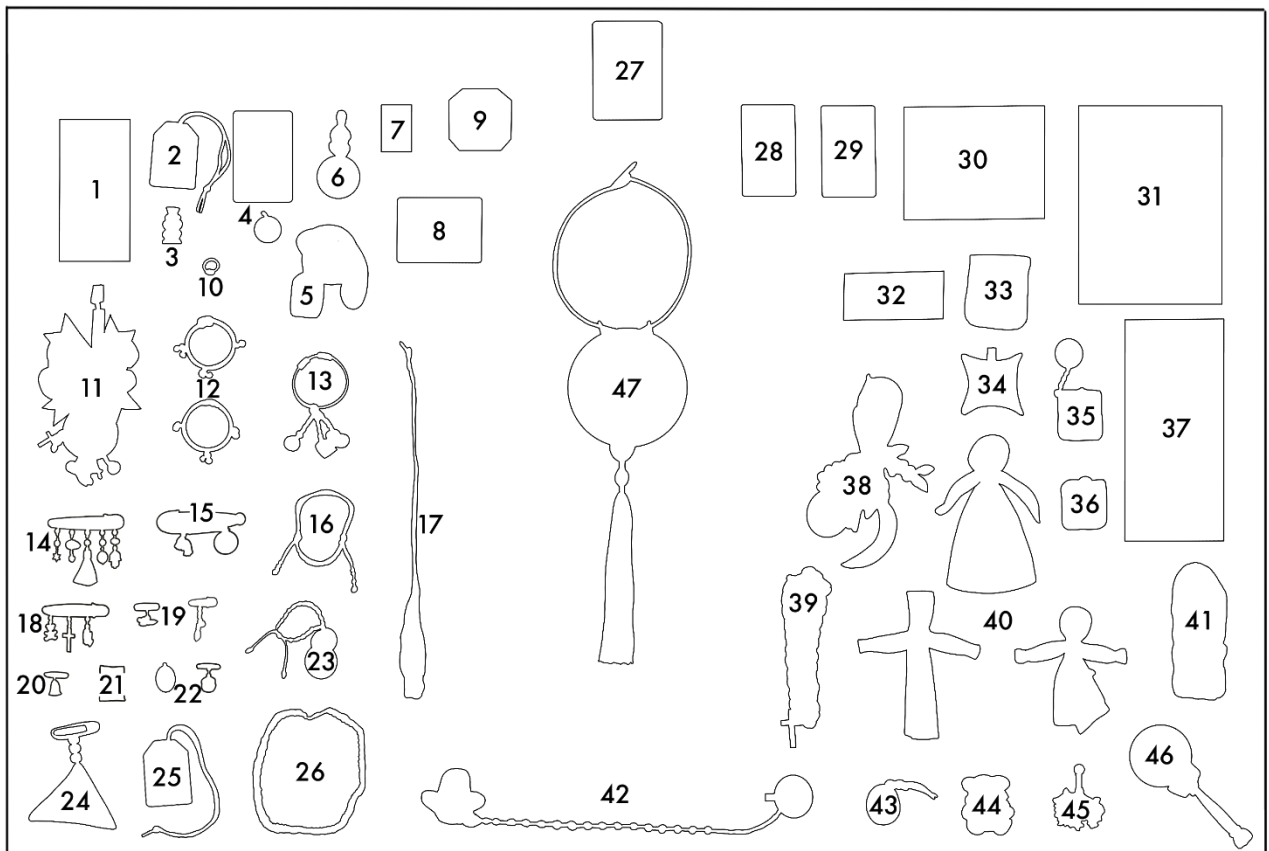
- 8 Heart charms, and Sacred Heart *ex voto*, Western European
- 9 *Mjolnir* (Thor's hammer) pendant, replica of Viking grave goods original, Scandinavia
- 10 Tuareg cross, Morocco; Ankh charm, after ancient Egyptian original
- 11 Crucifix with hidden compartment (possibly for relic?), French
- 12 3 small crosses, purchased in the UK
- 13 Wishing well charms, UK, one 1960s, one contemporary.
- 14 Three hand charms – hamsa, heart-in-hand, and figa
- 15 French WWI *porte-bonheur* (good luck charm) with lucky horseshoe and cannon, marked 1914-15.
- 16 Horseshoe charm, UK; Horseshoe *feve*, France; "Good Luck" horseshoe charm, UK.
- 17 Hmong spirit lock, Laos
- 18 Chinese numismatic charm ("Feng Shui coin") representing wealth and prosperity.
- 19 "7" *feve*, France
- 20 "13" acrylic charm, UK
- 21 "888" necklace, China
- 22 *Cimaruta* charm (sprig of rue) charm, Italy
- 23 Lucky Scimitar charm, given away in a 1920s women's magazine, UK
- 24 Lucky "*sabot*" (clog) *feve*, France; boot charm (with "lucky boot" across the sole), UK; cat-in-boot charm, mid-century UK
- 25 *Pastalinas* (shoes of luck), Latvia
- 26 Key charms, UK
- 27 Lucky sailor's pompom *feve*, France (one of the 9 traditional French "*Porte bonheur*") and Chimney sweep pin badge, France
- 28 Chimney sweep charm, Germany
- 29 Love-attracting package amulet, Buddhist, Thailand
- 30 Wealth-attracting package amulet; Buddhist, Thailand
- 31 *Gau* amulet box, Buddhist, Nepal
- 32 *Taweez* amulet holder, Sunni Muslim of South-Asian origin, purchased in UK
- 33 Tuareg amulet bag, Maliki Muslim, North Africa
- 34 Wealth package amulet, Peru
- 35 *Omamori* (amulet bag) for protection of children; Shinto, Japan
- 36 Silver locket with lock of hair, UK; Textual amulet bag, (likely Sunni or Sufi) Muslim, Ethiopia
- 37 Lucky amulet bag with hunchback charm, oil and gemstones, Spain

- 38 Catholic package amulet with devotional images and text, France
- 39 Orthodox Christian *filakto* amulet bag, Greece
- 40 Package amulet in a floating glass locket, USA
- 41 Russian Orthodox *Ladanka* amulet, Russia
- 42 Buddhist package amulet with Buddha image, Nepal
- 43 Medicine bag, Mohawk tribe, USA
- 44 Mojo bag, Hoodoo/folk tradition, African-American
- 45 Charm vial with image of Maximon, Guatemala
- 46 Charm vial for health and luck, Peru
- 47 Two package amulets, Mexico
- 48 Wallet amulet, Mexico
- 49 Pocket box with "Irish Wishing Stone" (piece of Connemara marble), Ireland, 1990s.
- 50 2 "four leaf clover" charms, made in China for Western market
- 51 Two Western European clover charms, and one clover *feve* (France)
- 52 Lucky toadstool, Germany
- 53 2 lily of the valley pin badges, France (one of the 9 French "*Porte bonheur*" symbols)
- 54 Edelweiss *feve* (one of the 9 French "*Porte bonheur*" symbols)
- 55 Lucky white heather brooch, Scotland
- 56 Pansy charms, France (one of the 9 French "*Porte bonheur*" symbols)
- 57 Early plastic acorn brooch, USA; acorn charms, UK
- 58 Selection of lucky seeds. For more information, see the Magic Beans (and Seeds) display
- 59 Ladybird charms, UK and USA; Ladybird *feve*, France (one of the 9 French "*Porte bonheur*" symbols)
- 60 *Cornicello* charms against the evil eye, Italian; chilli pepper charm, India
- 61 Wolf tooth amulet (imitation), Buddhist, Tibet; Mother of Pearl tusk amulet, Buddhist, Tibet
- 62 Pig amulet, Buddhist, Nepal
- 63 Cicada *feve*, France; spider charm, Germany.
- 64 Scarab ring and faience bead, after ancient Egyptian original
- 65 Wishbone charms, UK
- 66 *Salika* bird love charms – one in magic oil. Buddhist, Thailand
- 67 Cockerel charm, China

- 68 Lucky carp bead, China. The Chinese characters for “fish” and “surplus” sound similar so fish are often used to represent more wealth, children, etc.
- 69 Lucky elephant, India
- 70 Tortoise wealth and longevity amulet, Buddhist, Thailand
- 71 *Maneki neko* charm, black cat charm, both UK (*maneki neko* after Japanese type)
- 72 Elephant charm, UK; Lucky Circassian seed with 6 tiny elephants inside; India
- 73 Two lucky scotty dog charms, from a bottle of whisky (UK, 1970s)
- 74 Rabbit charm, China
- 75 Baltic amber frog charm, European; lucky frog, Japan
- 76 Zuni fetish carving of a bear with salmon, by Native American artist Jeff Eriacho.
- 77 Selection of shell charms.
- 78 Hebrew textual “Amulet of Grace”, Breslov Hasidic Jewish
- 79 Hebrew textual amulet against the evil eye, Breslov Hasidic Jewish
- 80 Miniature book of *tehillim* (psalms) carried as an amulet, Orthodox Jewish
- 81 Metal textual amulet for finding a spouse, as designed by Rabbi Yonatan ben Uziel, Charedi Jewish
- 82 Orthodox prayer belt with Psalm 90 and “Let God Arise” prayer, Russian Orthodox
- 83 Brass textual amulet with mantra, Buddhist, Tibet
- 84 Ayat Al Kursi (The 'Throne Verse' Pendant), Sunni Muslim, UK
- 85 Prayer cloth, Buddhist, Nepal
- 86 Fortune slip used for divination, Shinto, Japan
- 87 *Shiviti* textual amulet, Jewish, after original written in Eastern Europe
- 88 Mezuzah, Jewish, Israel and diaspora
- 89 Feng shui textual amulet for protection, China
- 90 Skull-shaped copal incense holders used in ancestor veneration, Mexico
- 91 Budai figure, China
- 92 Wallet image of “the Rebbe” (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson), Chabad Judaism.
- 93 Sheikh Nazim pendant, Muslim, Turkish-Cypriot; Padre Pio medal, Catholic, Italian
- 94 Milagros – folk charms used as offerings, Mexico

- 95 Medal of Veronica's Veil, Italian; statue of Virgin Mary, USA
- 96 Bracelet with saints images, Catholic, European
- 97 Christogram/monstrance pin, France; Cross with multiple indulgence granting images, front and back, France
- 98 Blessed amulet depicting Guanyin, *bodhisattva* of compassion, Buddhist, Thailand; and devotional medal of the Virgin of Guadeloupe (Mexico) and Our Lady of Lourdes (France)
- 99 St Jude and St Joseph medals (UK). The "St Jude" medal clearly shows an image of St Christopher!
- 100 Emerald Green Buddha amulet from Grand Palace in Bangkok, Buddhist, Thailand; blessed buddha pilgrimage amulet, temple unknown, Thailand
- 101 Angel pin and charm, UK
- 102 Buddhist fertility amulet with a half male, half-female figure, possibly a local deity, Thailand.
- 103 Worry dolls, Guatemala
- 104 Troll doll exam mascots, UK
- 105 Good luck acorn doll
- 106 Leprechaun and cupid charms, Ireland and UK; Nenette and Rintintin pin, France.
- 106 *Martinitsa* effigies for Baba Marta celebrations, Hungary
- 107 Cornish Piskey horse brass, UK

24. Amulets of Childhood



- 1 Limestone powder scraped from the walls of the Milk Grotto, Bethlehem (where the Holy Family is supposed to have hidden from Herod on their journey to Egypt, and where Mary dropped some milk, turning the red cave milky white). The powder is taken with water or milk and comes with instructions for prayer rituals supposed to cure infertility.
- 2 *Omamori* for a safe and easy pregnancy, Japan.
- 3 Bes amulet, Egypt. Bes was considered the protector of the household, and particularly of childbirth, mothers and children.
- 4 Prayer card and medal to St Gerard Majella, patron saint of childbirth and pregnant women.
- 5 Wearable textual amulet in a leather bag, for protection of a new mother. Jewish.

- 6 Numismatic “boy charm”, Southern China. These boy charms were worn in the belief that they would cause more male offspring to be born. Boys were preferred in Chinese Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist filial piety traditions because they carried on the family lineage.
- 7 *Phra Somdet* amulet, Thailand. These are considered particularly effective at protecting one from physical danger, including the dangers of childbirth.
- 8 *Tama* (*ex voto* offering) of a baby, Cyprus. *Ex votos* are left at shrines either as a form of supplication, or thanks for an answered prayers. This *tama* would be used in prayers connected to babies and fertility.
- 9 *Sarubobo*, Japan. These “baby monkey” dolls are traditional Japanese amulets, originally from the Gifu Prefecture, made from cloth and without facial features. These dolls are believed to bring good luck and happiness, and are given as gifts to ensure easy childbirth.
- 10 Ring with star of Bethlehem, to protect a child against witches. Medieval Ukraine.
- 11 Pram “bling” pin with amuletic charms, Romany, UK
- 12 Amuletic silver bangles for babies, to protect from evil spirits. India
- 13 c.1900 amuletic bracelet for a female child, China. The sound of the dangling charms would frighten away evil spirits.
- 14 Baby protection pin amulet, Jewish, UK
- 15 Baby protection pin amulet, Muslim, UK
- 16 Bracelet with *baijiabao* lock (longevity lock), traditionally given to Chinese children to bring them health and good luck.
- 17 Santeria amulet. Designed to be worn around the neck, this amulet (made by a Santeria practitioner) protects children from the evil eye. Cuba
- 18 Baby protection pin amulet, Christian, UK
- 19 *Azabache* (amuletic stone) pins: *azabache* and Eyes of St Lucy “God Bless Me” baby protection pin (left), and *figa* hand baby protection pin (right), both South America.
- 20 Bell pinned on to protect baby from evil spirits, Greece.

- 21 Filakto protective amulet bag, Greece.
- 22 Catholic medals, small enough to be pinned to the baby's clothes for protection. UK and France.
- 23 *Ojo de venado* bracelet. Bracelets of red thread with deer's eye seeds are placed on babies to protect them from the *mal de ojo* (evil eye). Mexico.
- 24 Amulet bag with *fulu*, a Taoist written talisman (see *Bujeok*, below). They are pinned to a baby's clothes to protect them from evil spirits.
- 25 *Omamori* amulet for children's happiness, Japan.
- 26 Coral necklace to protect a baby from "overlooking" by the evil eye. Victorian, British Isles.
- 27 St Philomena prayer card and medal, Catholic, UK. These invoke the protection of St. Philomena, a young martyr of the early Christian Church and the patron saint of infants, babies, and youth in the Western Christian tradition.
- 28 Textual amulet for the protection of children. Breslov Hasidic.
- 29 Textual amulet for an easy childbirth, invoking the merit of the Baba Sali. Mizrahi Jewish.
- 30 Book of *tehillim* (psalms). Placed in the baby's room to protect them from Lillith, the child-stealing demoness. Ashkenazi Jewish.
- 31 c1950 printed Jewish amulet for a baby girl. This would have been kept in the baby's room, perhaps under the cradle mattress. It's a version of an amulet that goes back to the Middle Ages at least.
- 32 *Tawiz* for a child who cries constantly or fails to thrive. It consists of a Quranic text written in saffron ink. British Muslim.
- 33 Moroccan leather and cowrie shell pouch for a *tawiz* textual amulet. The cowrie shells also have amuletic powers.
- 34 Tuareg amulet case for a *tawiz* textual amulet. North Africa.
- 35 Miniature Quran keyring, used as an amulet when attached to a baby's cot or pram.
- 36 Miniature *tehillim* keyring, used as an amulet when attached to a baby's cot or pram.

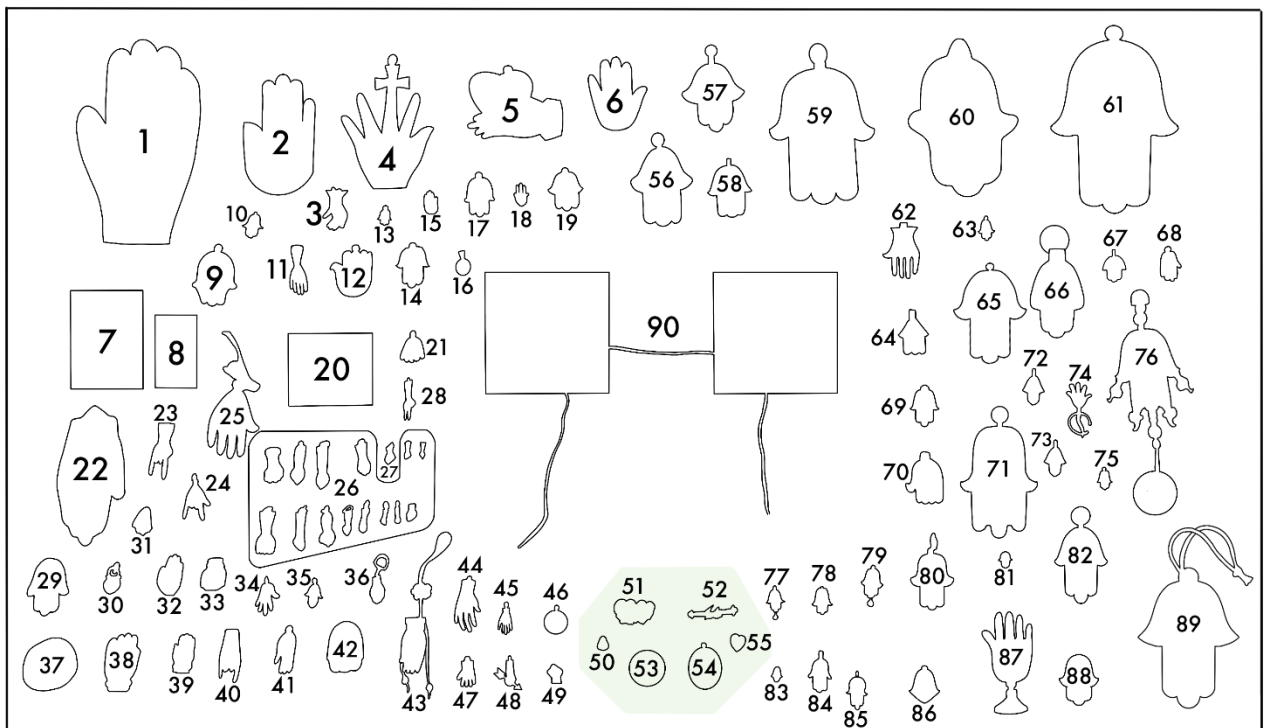
- 37 *Bujeok* written by a Taoist priest, for protection from evil spirits. This talisman was produced for the Korean diaspora in America, but is of the same type used in the Chinese amulet bag (above, 24). In China they are called *fulu*.
- 38 Child protection amulet of the Urarina people, Peru. It would have been worn on the wrist or attached to the baby's hammock. The amulet contains a snail shell, seeds, a peccary tooth, a bone, and palm fibre.
- 39 Rosary to be placed in a baby's cot or pram to protect against *usog*, a mysterious illness caused by being greeted or visited by a stranger – essentially similar to the idea in other cultures of well-wishers accidentally giving the child the evil eye.
- 40 3 *kouvadki* dolls, Ukraine. These traditional Slavic dolls are hung above the baby's cot to protect it from evil spirits.
- 41 *Pelenachka* doll, Ukraine. This amuletic doll is put in the cradle to protect the baby from the evil eye.
- 42 Dummy with *nazar* (evil eye) design, Turkey. Designed to protect babies from the Evil Eye as well as soothing them.
- 43 *Mati* (evil eye charm) to be hung from the baby's cot, to protect it from the evil eye. Greece.
- 44 Cot decoration with religious medal, to be pinned to the baby's cot to protect it from the evil eye. Greece.
- 45 *Cimaruta*, Italy. An amulet in the shape of a sprig of rue, with other amuletic objects worked into the branches. A *cimaruta* was either worn round the neck or hung above the baby's cradle to protect against the evil eye. They were traditionally made in silver, though this modern replica is made of brass.
- 46 "Happy Life" baby rattle, 1950s, UK. Aspirational and amuletic messaging blurs in much branding and marketing for baby products.
- 47 Amulet for an Anthropocene Child (2024) (see below)

25. Amulet for an Anthropocene Child (2024)

Embroidery thread, metal purl, linen, silk, and paper.

In an era marred by climate change, pollution, societal divides, and growing inequality, I feel profoundly pessimistic about the future. It feels like the world is in terminal decline. Yet, my friends choose to bring children into this world—an extraordinary gesture of hope and faith that the future still holds promise; that humanity has the capacity to solve its problems. As much as I admire their optimism, the condition of the world these children will inherit weighs heavily on my mind. This pectoral amulet, inspired by protective amulets for children throughout history, is an expression of both my hopes and fears for them. Inside the amulet bag is a textual amulet with verses from the Torah, including from Psalm 91: “You will not fear the terrors of night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the plague that roams in the dark, or the destruction that lays waste at noon.”

26. Hands and Separation



Hands, Part 1:

- 1 *Milagro* hand, Mexico. Wooden shapes - usually hands, sacred hearts, or crosses - adorned with *milagros* (*miracles*, but in this case small metal charms) are a Mexican folk tradition. They can be decorative or be used as votive offerings to request help or give thanks to a particular saint. The *milagros* each represent different prayers, wishes, or thanks for healing specific parts of the body or aspects of life.
- 2 Sacred Heart in hand tin decoration, Mexico.
- 3 Hand tin *ex voto*, Mexico.
- 4 Hand with heart and cross tin decoration, Mexico.
- 5 Hand holding heart *ex voto*, Mexico.
- 6 Heart in hand *ex voto*, Mexico.
- 7 Decoration in the design of the La Mano *loteria* card. These cards are used as part of a board game, but neo-pagans have also begun using them for divination – possibly because the cards themselves were originally influenced on the Tarot deck.
- 8 1950s cigarette card depicting Mano Panthera, UK. Part of a set depicting lucky charms from around the world.
- 9 Hand of Fatima wood block for printing, India.
- 10 Hamsa charm with Star of David
- 11 Hand pendant with evil eye. Sold as being from India but uncertain.
- 12 Jewish *hamsa* keyring based on early 20th century Moroccan Synagogue lamp decoration, Morocco
- 13 Small modern *hamsa* charm with *magen david*/Star of David.
- 14 Jewish *hamsa* keyring with “mazel” (luck) inscription, and lucky symbols.
- 15 Hand of Ahimsa pin badge, Jain, India.

- 16 Pendant with *hamsa* and *Shema Yisrael* prayer, Jewish.
- 17 Jewish *hamsa* keyring with pomegranates and birds.
- 18 *Hamsa* pin badge, bought in a charity shop in Golders Green but origin uncertain.
- 19 Jewish *hamsa* keyring with pomegranates and fish.
- 20 Brooch of hand holding a Star of David, UK.
- 21 Small *hamsa* pendant, North African. Could equally be Jewish or Muslim.
- 22 Large ex-voto hand, Catholic, European (possibly French?)
- 23 *Mano cornuto* (horned hand) charm, American based on Italian form.
- 24 Keyring with ASL sign for love, America.
- 25 *Mati* hand amulet, Greece.
- 26 Selection of *mano del fico/figa* (fist with thumb poking through) amulets from across Europe and South America.
- 27 Antique bronze *mano del fico* charm, Phoenician, Lebanon
- 28 Jade pendant with V for Victory sign. Mid-century, UK.
- 29 Glass hand amulet with *nazar*. This could be from a number of Mediterranean countries.
- 30 Jade hand amulet, China
- 31 "Lucky Hand Root", Hoodoo, USA. Said to look like hands, with a little imagination.
- 32 Hand of Buddha, with image of a celebrated Buddhist monk, Thailand.
- 33 Inca hand talisman based on find from Tiwanaku, Bolivia.

- 34 Mother of pearl hand pendant, Mid-century, UK.
- 35 *Hamsa* pendant with a crucifix embedded, origin uncertain.
- 36 Jasper hand pendant, UK
- 37 Roman amulet with hand symbol, Roman Britain
- 38 Jadeite hand amulet with god of wealth, China.
- 39 Hand amulet with figure of Hanuman, India
- 40 Hand of Buddha amulet, China.
- 41 Hand of Buddha amulet, China.
- 42 Hand amulet with Eye of Buddha, Nepal.
- 43 Hand amulet with Head of Buddha, China.
- 44 Mystic hand charm, New Age, UK.
- 45 Modern hand charm, UK.
- 46 “Fingers crossed” charm, UK.
- 47 Modern hand charm with eye, UK.
- 48 Hand holding arrow charm, UK.
- 49 Black Lives Matter fist charm.

Separation Anxiety:

- 50 Japanese frog charm. In Japan, frogs symbolise a safe return, because of a similarity between the Japanese words for “frog” and “return”. This charm will also encourage money to return to your wallet.

- 51 Late Victorian “Mizpah” brooch, UK. Has the word ‘Mizpah’, and the text: ‘The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another’. Mizpah (or מצפה) is a Hebrew word meaning watchtower. It comes from Genesis, when Jacob and Laban make peace and erect a pile of stones to symbolise their agreement, saying that God will watch between them. The term came to mean an emotional bond between separated parties - lovers or friends - and from around the 1850s Mizpah jewellery became popular. Usually brooches, mass-produced in silver, they were given as tokens of love or friendship by people separated for long periods. They experienced a resurgence in popularity during WWI as soldiers have them to their sweethearts before heading to war, but they’ve largely faded out of memory since then.
- 52 Swallow pin. The swallow represents a safe return home after a long journey, due to their ability to return to their nesting grounds each summer. This example is French.
- 53 Penny with lovers’ names carved into it, Ireland.
- 54 WW2 “sweetheart” brooch, UK.
- 55 Tiny swallow pin, American.

Hand amulets, Part 2

- 56 Moroccan *hamsa* decoration.
- 57 Moroccan *hamsa* decoration.
- 58 Hamsa amulet with fish and seven-pointed star, made into a brooch. Origin uncertain – possibly North African.
- 59 Double *hamsa*, Morocco.
- 60 Ceramic *hamsa*, North African.
- 61 Large *hamsa*, Moroccan.

- 62 *Hamsa* amulet, North African.
- 63 Small Tuareg *hamsa* amulet.
- 64 Small *hamsa* amulet, North African.
- 65 Modern cutwork *hamsa*
- 66 Leather *hamsa* with *nazar* keyring, branded "Turkiye" Both the *hamsa* and the *nazar* (blue eye-shaped bead) have become important symbols of Turkish cultural identity and thus marketable souvenirs.
- 67 Small Tuareg *hamsa* amulet.
- 68 Small *hamsa*, origin uncertain.
- 69 Black and white Hand of Fatima, origin uncertain.
- 70 *Hamsa* amulet, Morocco.
- 71 Enamelled *hamsa*, Morocco.
- 72 Small *hamsa* amulet with Yaz symbol (a tifinagh letter and symbol of Amazigh identity). North African.
- 73 Small *hamsa* amulet with eye symbol engraved, Morocco.
- 74 *Hamsa* fibula brooch, origin uncertain.
- 75 Small enamel *hamsa*, origin uncertain but similar to Turkish designs.
- 76 Large *hamsa* decoration with elephants, Turkey.
- 77 New Age *hamsa* charm, UK.
- 78 Modern *hamsa* charm with eye, UK.
- 79 Enamel *hamsa* charm similar to Turkish type.

- 80 Small enamelled *hamsa*, Morocco.
- 81 Small *hamsa* pendant, New Age, UK.
- 82 *Hamsa* amulet, origin uncertain.
- 83 *Hamsa* pendant, origin uncertain.
- 84 Modern *hamsa* charm made after North African type.
- 85 Red *hamsa* charm, Turkey.
- 86 Stylised *hamsa* pendant with the name of Allah.
- 87 Brass hand commemorating the Shia martyrs, Imams Al Abbas ibn Ali and Ali al-Abidin. They are remembered for their loyalty and bravery during the Battle of Karbala, when they died trying to bring water to the besieged family of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussain. During his martyrdom, Al Abbas ibn Ali's hands were cut off, and they are buried in separate shrines.
- 88 Wooden *hamsa* with Arabic letter pattern, origin unknown.
- 89 Unusual wooden cutwork *hamsa*, North African.
- 90 Amulet Against Estrangement (2019) (see below)

27. Amulet Against Estrangement (2019)

Stumpwork embroidery, mounted in a cardboard box

I lived abroad for a number of years and made some very close friendships. They were a surrogate family to me, and it felt like exile when I left. I worry that as the years go on and our lives diverge, it will become harder and harder to keep that emotional connection. I worry that we'll ultimately lose touch, just from the lack of that constant daily contact. That time in my life is already starting to feel like a dream. This piece is a response to that fear. In folk

Judaism, red strings have a kind of protective power. They were tied round the wrists of children to help keep away the evil eye. Women struggling to conceive wind a red thread around the tomb of the matriarch Rachel and then wear it, in the hope their prayers will be answered. I would like to think there's an invisible red thread anchoring me to my loved ones there, dispelling anxiety, maintaining our bond, and protecting us both.

28. Red Threads

Red strings, ribbons and fabrics from across the world. Going from right to left:

- 1 Mexico - Red ribbon on a safety pin. Pregnant women are advised to wear a red ribbon on a safety pin, pinned to their underwear, to protect mother and baby from the evil eye. This is especially important during an eclipse, otherwise the baby may be born with a cleft palate.
- 2 Mexico - Red ribbon. Tying a red ribbon round a fruit tree will protect it from the evil influence of an eclipse.
- 3 Spain - Scallop shell necklace, worn by pilgrims Catholic pilgrims who have completed the Camino de Santiago, Spain.
- 4 Worldwide, Catholic - The Red Scapular of the Sacred Heart. This is a Catholic sacramental based on the Marian visions of Estelle Faguette, a French domestic servant who was miraculously cured of tuberculosis.
- 5 Worldwide, Catholic - The Red Scapular of the Passion of Our Lord and the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Often simply called "The Red Scapular", this is a Catholic sacramental based on a vision of Sister Apolline Andriveau. Those who wear it are promised "every Friday a full remission of their sins, and a great increase of faith, hope, and charity." It is promoted by the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul.
- 6-7 Peru – bracelet and necklace using amuletic *huayruro* seeds and red string.
- 8 Japan – Red prayer cloth (Shinto). At Unedori-sama shrine, pilgrims looking for love donate 100 yen for a piece of red cloth, on which they write their wish for romantic success. They then tie the cloth somewhere in the shrine using their left hand only.

- 9 China - Inhabitants of the mountain forests of Quingyuan tie red ribbons on ancient trees to place their children under the protection of the trees and the spirits they contain, the Shu-niang. The Shu-niang is symbolically taken as the child's "mother", who will protect it and make sure it grows up healthy, prosperous, and respectable.
- 10 China - Buddhist rubber bracelet with mantra.
- 11-18 China – Red string bracelets. In China, red string bracelets symbolize protection, good fortune, and connection. People believe that there is an invisible red string connecting them to the person they are fated to be with.
- 19 China - For those who do not want to wear a bracelet, they can still access the protective powers of red string with this red string phone charm.
- 20 China – Amuletic red hair scrunchie with longevity lock symbol, to protect a child.
- 21 Thailand – Red Sai sin thread bracelet and necklace with metal *Takrut* amulet. A sai sin is a thread that has been blessed by a buddhist monk. They are widely worn for protection throughout Thailand and used in temple rituals and wedding ceremonies. The most common colour is white, symbolising purity, but there are regional variations, and the next most common colour is red. The red is considered to protect against evil and negative energy.
- 22 India – At the Deopani Durga Mandir in Diphu, Assam, worshippers tie red ribbons to a sacred rubber tree to have wishes granted by the goddess Durga.
- 23 India – Red wool *japamala*, blessed by a Panditji priest.
- 24-29 India – *Kautuka*. Also known as *mauli*, *kalava*, *moui*, *raksasutra*, *pratisara*. This is a protective red/yellow thread, usually worn around the wrist or neck, or tied as part of puja rituals.
- 30 India – Saraswati yantra. This yantra invokes the blessing of the Hindu goddess of learning and wisdom, Saraswati. Prayers and offerings to Saraswati are popular before the highly competitive board exams in India.
- 31-34 India – *Rakhi* bracelets. These are tied by sisters onto a brother's wrist as part of the Raksha Bandhan festival, to symbolise the brother's obligation to protect her.

- 35 Niger – Talhakimt amulet. These are traditionally made of chalcedony, and are believed to bring good luck
- 36-37 Turkey – red bracelets with *hamsa* charms, against the evil eye.
- 38 Turkey – red bracelet with *nazar* bead, against the evil eye.
- 39 Ashkenazi Jewish – Red ribbon. A red ribbon worn on the person will protect the wearer from the *Ayin HaRa* (evil eye). It is particularly advisable to wear such a ribbon if you will be in contact with someone who might be jealous of you.
- 40 Ashkenazi Jewish – Red ribbon. Red ribbons are tied to or beneath a baby's cradle to protect against Lilith, the child-stealing demoness, and the *Ayin HaRa* (Evil Eye). Variations on this folk custom are found throughout the Jewish diaspora.
- 41 Greece – Gouri. Amulet against the evil eye, put up annually at New Year.
- 42-43 Greece – Martis bracelets - traditional bracelets made of twisted red and white threads, worn from March 1st until the end of the month or until the first signs of spring, such as the blooming of trees. It symbolizes the arrival of spring and is believed to protect the wearer's skin from the strong sun of early spring.
- 44 Romania – Mărțișor. A Mărțișor is a traditional Romanian symbol of the beginning of spring, marked on March 1st. It consists of a twisted red and white string, usually with a small trinket or tassel, which people give to loved ones to wish them good luck and health for the coming year. The red and white colours are believed to represent love and purity, respectively.
- 45 Bulgaria – Martenitsa – a traditional Bulgarian charm made of red and white yarn, symbolizing health, happiness, and the arrival of spring. Worn from March 1st until the wearer sees a stork or blossoming tree, signifying spring's arrival, it is then tied to a tree to wish for good health and prosperity. The *martenitsa* can take many forms but a common one is these small dolls, named Pizho and Penda.
- 46 Worldwide, Catholic - Cords of St Philomena (waist and wrist versions). These red and white cords demonstrate membership of the Universal Archconfraternity of Saint Philomena and invoke the intercession of St

Philomena for the wearer. The red and white are said to represent the "faith and the purity of virginity".

- 47 Scotland - Rowan berry and red thread necklace, worn to protect children from witches.
- 48 Scotland – Red thread with nine knots in it, used to prevent nose bleeds.
- 49 Scotland – Red flannel strip, used to prevent whooping cough.
- 50 Ireland – Red flannel cloth, used in various folk cures, and pinned to babies to prevent "overlooking" (i.e. the evil eye).
- 51 England - Oak apple and red thread necklace

29. Magic Plants

Going along the top line of rope, from right to left:

- 1 Oak – Has been sacred to cultures across the Europe, and was particularly associated with the god Thor, perhaps because they are more prone to lightning strikes due to their size and high water content.
- 2 Artemisia (mugwort) – In medieval Europe, it was harvested on St John's Eve and brought into the house to protect against illness or disaster. It was called St John's Herb because of the belief that St John the Baptist wore a girdle of it.
- 3 St John's Wort – Another plant associated with St John. In Scotland it was brought into the house at Midsummer to protect it against evil spirits.
- 4 Elm – Elms were associated with elves and the underworld, but also thought to protect from lightning.
- 5 Rowan – Rowan has been widely seen as protective in Scotland – for more information, see the Rowan cabinet on the next wall, and the text in the accompanying Plant Lives booklet.
- 6 Poppy seed heads – In Scotland a poppy head necklace would protect children from being stolen by fairies.

- 7 Birch - In parts of Britain they were considered to prevent evil spirits entering the home when branches were hung over windows and door frames. In Russia, they are considered amuletic, and particularly associated with fertility and health.
- 8 Dock - Dock was thought to "draw" money if rubbed on the door handles or swept across the floors of businesses.
- 9 Linden - Lindens are considered sacred in Slavic and Baltic mythology, particularly associated with fertility.
- 10 Yew – These are poisonous, so it's perhaps unsurprising they came to represent death. But they also symbolise resurrection and are often planted in churchyards. In many parts of England yews are thought to protect the house and it is unlucky to cut one down.

30. Bad News Blooms

Continuing along the top line of string, from right to left:

- 1 Holly – Outside of Christmas (and in some places, even at Christmas), it is considered unlucky to bring holly into the house.
- 2 Elder – In Germany, bringing elder into the house was thought to be unlucky, as it allowed ghosts in.
- 3 Hawthorn – It is considered very unlucky to bring hawthorn into the house, as it bring in illness and death.
- 4 Beech – Considered unlucky in Dorset (likely due to the eye-shaped patterns often found on the bark, and the fact that few other plants can grow in a beech grove).
- 5 Ivy – in some places, it's unlucky to bring ivy in the house – it's said to mean an imminent death in the family.
- 6 Rosebay Willowherb – Called thunder-flower in some places because it was believed that picking it caused thunderstorms.

Luckily most of these superstitions concern houses, and not Folklore Centres.

Wall 3

31. Venus Eye Trap (1), 2023

Embroidery floss, wire, silk gauze, interfacing, glass cloche

Please see Venus Eye Trap (2) for an explanation of this work.

Plant Lives

Plant Lives is a series of curiosity cabinets exploring the social, cultural and ecological significance of some of our most common wild plants. Plants are the lynchpins of our environment. All animal life is dependent on them - including ours. This knowledge was once reflected in their central place in folk culture, forming the basis of everything from cures to curses, food to fashion. As we become increasingly estranged from the natural world, plants that we once prized are forgotten or denigrated as weeds – to our lasting peril. Plant Lives aims to restore plants to their rightful place in our imaginations, and to highlight both the cultural loss and existential threat represented by their decline.

For the curious, there is a separate booklet with texts to accompany each of the Plant Cabinets, explaining the significance of the objects. Each compartment of each cabinet is numbered, however the numbering system moves around wildly, so they are recorded in a diagram for each cabinet. Think of it as a natural history advent calendar, except you don't need to wait to open all the doors, and instead of chocolate, it contains interesting facts about plants.

These cabinets go across Wall 3, above the small picture shelves. Going from right to left:

32. Plant Lives – Rowan Cabinet (2021)

Embroidery, assemblage, collage

33. Plant Lives – Dandelion (2021)

Embroidery, needle felting, mixed media, assemblage

34. Plant Lives – Nettle (2021)

Embroidery, papercutting, gouache, cordage, mixed media, assemblage

35. Plant Lives – Clover (2021)

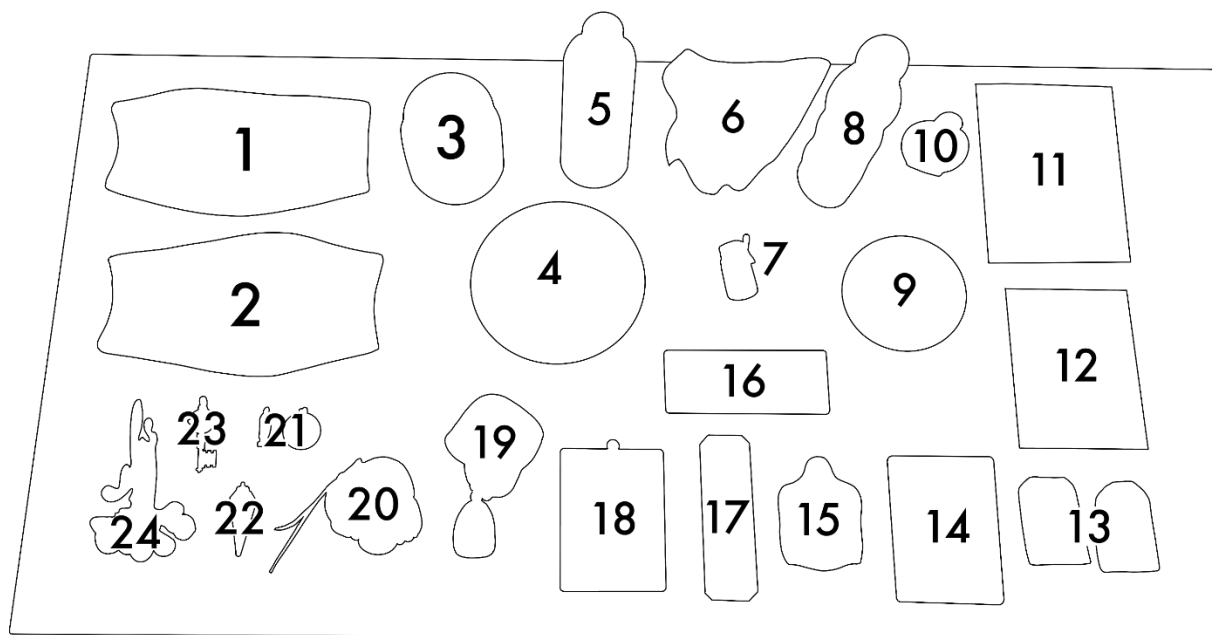
Embroidery, assemblage

36. Plant Lives – Birds-Foot Trefoil (2021)

Embroidery, gouache, papercutting, assemblage

37. Health and Healing

A selection of objects used in healing rituals. A number were touted as cures for or prophylactics against coronavirus, which meant being able to witness the development of folk cures in real time.



- 1 Mask with *Ya Ali Madad* (Oh Ali, Help), calling on the intercession of Ali, the cousin and son in law of the Prophet Muhammad. Shia Islam.
- 2 Mask with monogram of Mary, standing for “Auspice Maria”, under the protection of Mary. Catholic.
- 3 Tzedakah (charity) box – not only is increased charitable giving a common Jewish response to illness or hardship (“charity saves from death”, Proverbs 10:2), this tzedakah box is one of those given out by the Chabad sect, who believe that if all Jews repent and become observant, the Messiah will come. It is decorated with commandments that you should apparently do in order to bring the Messiah faster.
- 4 Islamic healing bowl with *Sura Yeseen* (a significant chapter of the Quran) engraved inside. Water is poured in and absorbs some of the sanctity of the engraved text; drinking it is then thought to have a healing effect. (Sufi Muslim, Turkey)
- 5 Holy anointing oil from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Russian Orthodox Church
- 6 Water from the holy River Ganges. For use in puja, but also considered to have healing properties. In 2020, the National Mission for Clean Ganga proposed Ganges water as a treatment for covid, and pseudo-scientific claims are made for the water’s ability to cure all kinds of diseases on a fairly regular basis.
- 7 Healing spell bottle, created by a third-generation hereditary hedgewitch based in Kent.
- 8 Zamzam water (from a holy well in Mecca, Saudi Arabia). Used by Muslims worldwide in healing.
- 9 Metal tortoise in dish. Tortoises are the second avatar of the god Vishnu, so hold an important place in Hinduism, and in the Vastu Shastra system of architecture and space (similar to Feng Shui). Their precise meaning can vary depending on placement and material. This one symbolises longevity, health and wealth. Placing water in the dish will amplify its powers.
- 10 Holy water from Lourdes, Catholic, France.

- 11 Luang Pu Thuat amulet. Luang Pu Thuat was a famous miracle-working monk who lived more than 3000 years ago. His amulets are supposed to protect devotees from illness and calamity, and particularly from car accidents.
- 12 An amulet against Coronavirus that was handed out to supporters of Rav Ovadia Yosef.
- 13 Two Japanese *omamori* against illness - specifically marketed as being against coronavirus.
- 14 *Dua* (prayer) cards against sugar and heart pain. These cards are designed to be carried in the wallet to protect the carrier against diabetes and heart problems.
- 15-18 *Ex voto* offerings representing various body parts and ailments. These would be offered with prayers at a church or shrine to ask for healing. 15, 17 and 18 are Mexican, 16 is Greek.
- 19 Somdet Phra Buddhacarya amulet. Somdet Phra Buddhacarya was a famous Buddhist monk who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries, famous for making amulets. This amulet is supposed to protect devotees from danger and illness.
- 20 Nutmeg necklace. A common Cornish folk remedy against backache is to wear a nutmeg on a string around your neck, so that the nut touches your skin.
- 21 Sacred heart miniature statue and medal. This devotion was initially developed as a response to a plague, and the connection was revived in special prayers promulgated during lockdown. Catholic, worldwide.
- 22 Nephrite jade amulet, of the type suggested as a coronavirus cure in an infamous (and now withdrawn) paper in Science Direct in 2020.
- 23 Key of St Benedict, worn against illness by Catholics worldwide.
- 24 Collection of Buddhist amulets, Thailand. Amulets are taken very seriously in Thailand, and many people who had to work through the coronavirus pandemic took refuge in collections of amulets.

38. Supernatural Helpers

You may touch the supernatural helpers. As these may end up being moved around and mixed up, I am including a photograph for clarification.



- 1 Chanchito (lucky three-legged pig). These bring luck in Chile. The origin story is that a family raised a three-legged piglet, and in gratitude, the pig brought them prosperity and luck.
- 2 Lucky black cat bug, to bring you luck.
- 3 Nenette and Rintintin. This pair of yarn dolls became popular symbols of protection and luck in France during World War I. Carrying them was thought to safeguard against harm and bring comfort to soldiers away from home. The postcard reads: "Accept this charming fetish. He is certainly the only one with whom we can not care about bombs and bombardments"
- 4 Mini figure of the Virgin Mary (Lourdes apparition). Mary acts as an intercessor for Catholics, and figures of her are traditionally considered protective.

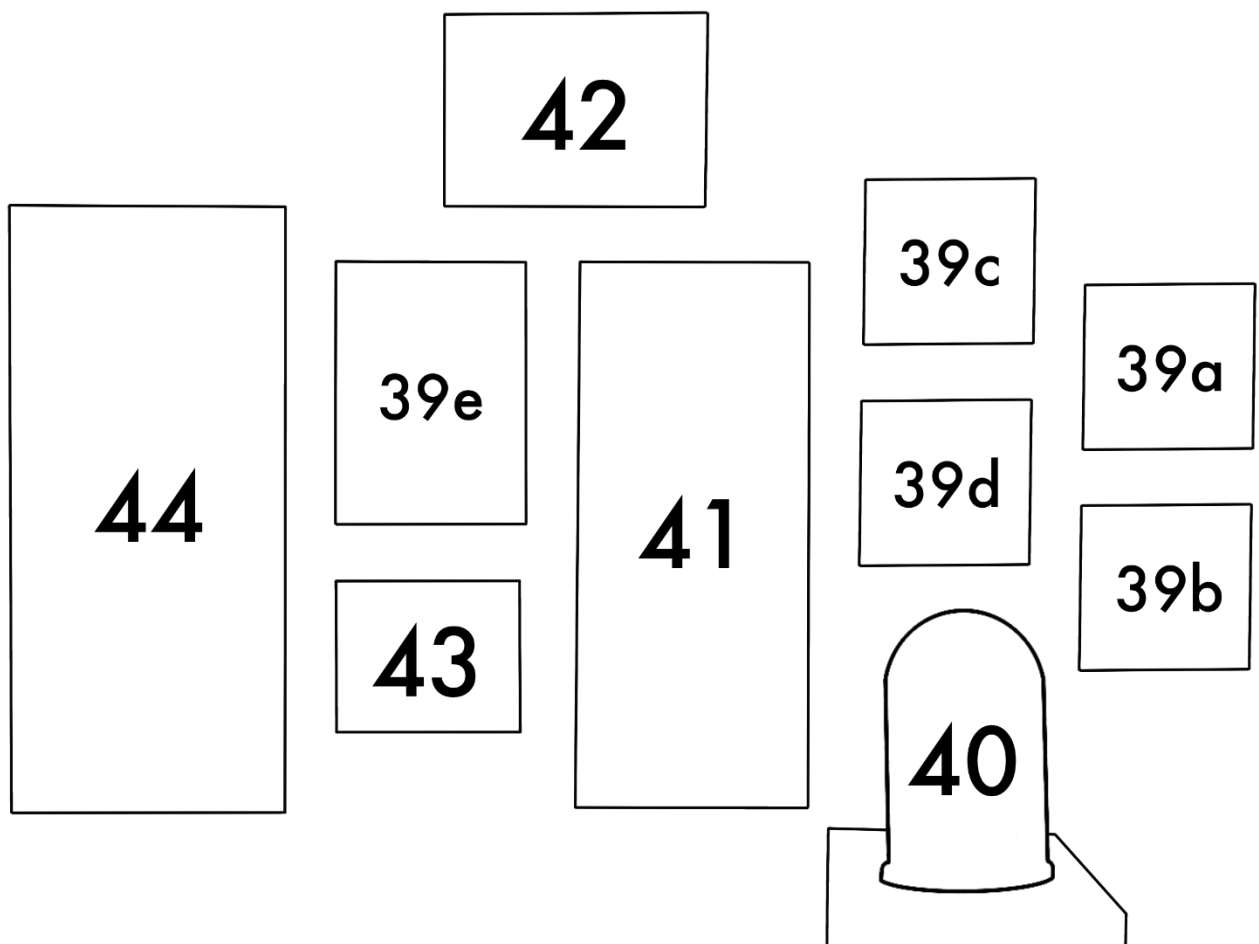
- 5 Ganesha incense holder. The Hindu deity known as the remover of obstacles, Ganesha is revered for protection and blessing new beginnings.
- 6 Lakshmi Mata idol. Lakshmi symbolizes wealth, fortune, and prosperity in India. It is believed that venerating her brings material and spiritual riches.
- 7 Guanyin figure. In Chinese Buddhism, Guanyin is the *bodhisattva* of compassion, often invoked for protection and mercy. She is the particular protector of women and children.
- 8 Pizho and Penda dolls Bulgarians celebrate the coming of spring in March by making martenitsi - amuletic decorations or bracelets made from red and white yarn. These protect from the evil eye. Martenitsi must not be bought for oneself, but must be given. White symbolises beginnings, beauty, and happiness; red symbolises fertility and health. A popular version of the martenitsa is a pair of dolls, named Pizho (male) and Penda (female).
- 9 *Severnaya Bereginya* doll (Siberian). These are a symbol of fertility and the guardian of the family hearth. These handmade dolls are believed to protect the household, attract positive energy, and ensure harmony within the home.
- 10 Cock of Barcelos. Considered in Portugal to bring good luck, these figures are based on a story about a miraculous roasted rooster who saved an innocent pilgrim from hanging.
- 11 *Tomte* are elves that live in Swedish homes and keep them safe and their inhabitants prosperous. On Christmas Eve they should be thanked with a bowl of porridge with butter.
- 12 *Himedaruma* doll, from the city of Matsuyama in Japan. They commemorate an empress who had a three year pregnancy before finally giving birth to a male heir. They are thought to ensure an easy labour.
- 13 *Domovoi*. A Slavic household spirit that guards the home, ensuring the family's well-being and prosperity. He should be appeased with offerings of porridge, milk, salt, bread or tobacco.
- 14 Bird of Happiness, Ukraine. This bird doll is made without any cutting or sewing, just tying with thread. It ensures the happiness of the household.

- 15 Motanka doll. These amuletic dolls are used as home guardians. Different types of doll are made to assist with a range of tasks or wishes - for healing, prosperity, luck, fertility, or protection. They have pre-Christian origins that go back thousands of years. The dolls often contain amuletic objects like bread, herbs or coins, and are never sewn - only tied together with thread - and the name motanka comes from the verb motaty, or "to wind". Their faces are left blank or marked with a woven cross so that they can absorb the needs and wishes of their owners, and so that the doll will not be given a soul that ties it to its owner. This example was made by a Ukrainian refugee living in Poland.
- 16 Lucky Lottery Troll. This vintage troll, from the 1990s, was marketed as helping you win the lottery.
- 17 *Maneki neko* figure, China. This cat beckons customers and prosperity into your business.
- 18 Guatemalan worry dolls, supposed to take away worries and bad dreams as you sleep.
- 19 Slavic healing doll. This faceless, amuletic doll absorbs the illness from the sick person. It is then thanked for its help, and burnt, taking the illness with it.
- 20 *Daruma*. A traditional Japanese talisman modelled after Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen Buddhism. It symbolizes perseverance and good luck, and used for wish-making; owners paint one eye while making a wish and then paint the other when the wish is fulfilled.
- 21 Kitchen witch. Many Central European countries believe that every house must have kitchen witch who will protect the home from misfortune. This example is from Czechia.
- 22 Bes ceramic figure, replica after an ancient Egyptian original. Bes was a deity believed to protect households, particularly children and mothers.
- 23 Uso (Bullfinch). In Japanese culture, the bullfinch is considered a bringer of good luck and protector against misfortune, including fire.
- 24 Ekeko Doll (Andean Culture). Ekeko is the Tiwanakan (pre-Columbian civilization) god of abundance and prosperity, represented in doll form. In Bolivia and Peru, the Ekeko doll is a popular amulet, especially during the

Alasitas festival, where people buy miniature items to offer to Ekeko, hoping to receive those items in full size as blessings.

- 25 *Hoon payon*. The *hoon payon* is a protective animist figure from Thai folklore, crafted and empowered by Buddhist monks. They serve as supernatural guardians, believed to absorb and deflect any negative or harmful forces directed towards its owner.

Wall 4: Insectarium



39. Lepidoptera Wall (2019)
Stumpwork embroidery, entomological cases

Rendered in painstaking detail and at actual size, the butterfly specimens are a study in autistic hyperfocus, as well as an attempt to freeze nature in its decline. They invite the viewer to stop for a moment and become absorbed in the wonder of the smallest thing.

The butterflies and moth are presented alongside botanical specimens of their larval food plants.

Species represented:

- a) Brimstone Butterfly
- b) Red Admiral Butterfly
- c) Adonis Blue (Male and Female), Small Heath Butterflies
- d) Silver-washed Fritillary Butterfly
- e) Butterfly Specimen Case – Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Small Tortoiseshell, Purple Emperor, Peacock, Painted Lady, Purple Hairstreak

40. Bee Jar (2021)

Stumpwork embroidery, acrylic, brass rods, glass cloche

This piece depicts the queens of six British bumblebee species ranging from the common to the vanishingly rare: the buff-tailed bumblebee, tree bumblebee, red-shanked carder bee, moss carder bee, bilberry bumblebee, and shrill carder bee. They are slightly larger than real life, but not by much – queen bumblebees are pretty chunky.

I make these to draw attention to their beauty and vulnerability, but also to evoke the wonder I feel when I am with real bees. People love to look at and hold the embroidered bees, and I hope that for some it might spark a broader interest in protecting the real thing.

41. Bee-rometer (2021)

Stumpwork embroidery, crewel embroidery

The Bee-rometer is an attempt to illustrate species loss in a visual way. Bees are so sensitive to changes in the ecosystem, they act as a kind of long-term biodiversity barometer.

The first barometer “face” represents 1920, when we still had abundant habitat and good species diversity. The second represents 2020, by which point plant diversity has declined significantly; we have already lost two UK bumblebee species and many others are becoming extremely rare. The third circle represents 2120 as I imagine it will be if we continue to see the kind of decline in nature that the twentieth century has. The piece aims to be a wake-up call, to highlight what we may lose if we don’t take action now.

42. Reverend Kirby’s Specimen Box (2022)

Stumpwork embroidery, paper, nettle fabric, and wooden box

An homage to *Osmia spinulosa*, the Spined Mason Bee, in this piece I imagine the natural history specimens that parson-naturalist the Reverend William Kirby might have collected on his walks around Suffolk chalk pits in the autumn of 1797, when he made his first observations of the Spined Mason Bee.

The bee collects pollen for itself and its larvae from Asteraceae plants such as autumn hawkbit (left). It makes its nests in empty snail shells (centre), creating cells within the spiral and sealing the entrance with mortar made from chewed-up creeping cinquefoil leaves (right). Finally, it carefully turns the shell over, hiding its young from predators and parasites.

43. Black Arches Moth (2020)

Stumpwork embroidery, entomological case

Moths are often unfairly maligned, inspiring revulsion or viewed as pests. In fact, our ecosystem depends on them both as pollinators and food for other animals. Their sensitivity makes them important indicator species, warning us

of environmental threats. We are also indebted to moths for many scientific discoveries, from understanding Rh disease to breaking down plastic.

By creating large-scale specimens, several times actual size, I encourage people to look again, and more favourably, at moths. Enlarged, their beauty becomes more striking, the diversity of species more evident. By kindling a sense of wonder, I hope to inspire people to value and protect these remarkable insects.

44. Urban Bounty (2021)

Found objects, printers tray

Before the pandemic, I worked two days a week at my studio space in Portobello. I would get the bus with one of my support workers, and we'd get out a few stops early so that we could walk along the beach, and forage for interesting things in the sand. On other days, we went on walks in the area around my home, or in quiet parks and gardens, and I'd fill my pockets with treasures. I am unable to pass something interesting on the ground without picking it up and taking it home for my collection. These objects aren't always what others consider beautiful, but they are lovely to me. Since covid, there is a severe shortage of care workers in Edinburgh (and across the UK), and I no longer have support to work at my studio, or to wander the city. These pieces have become less a living collection, and more a museum of my former freedom.

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