

A VISIT TO THE ORACLE

Dirty Lane (Unit 210), Borough Yards, SE1 9AD
1 - 17 December, Thursday - Saturday 12 - 7, Sundays 12 - 6

This Winter go on an enchanted journey to the Oracle with award winning artist Alice Instone. *A Visit To The Oracle*, expresses a belief in art's power to console and regenerate. The interactive artworks celebrate our desire for hands-on, tactile, real experiences and feed our appetite for illusion, ritual, mystery, magic and connection. The works transport you to a place where you felt secure, offering the comfort and reassurance our forebears sought through art and stories when the future seemed alarming.

- *A Visit To The Oracle* invites us to literally voyage into the dark forest, past magical beasts and spells, where you can sit in a monstrous cat's jaws and reflect on the universal condition.
- Leave your troubles in a giant bird-woman's mouth and explore your shadow side with *The Book of Self Loathing*.
- Visit the mysterious *Motherhouse* before encountering the beauty and regeneration of *The Grandmother's Garden* and connecting with your ancestors.
- Go on a journey with the moon with Alice's short film *Oracle* which won Best Fantasy Film at the Cannes Short Film Festival. It encourages us to experience hope and renewal and beauty.
- Visit the spellbinding *Golden Cobweb Room* and light a candle.
- Read from *Spell With Stars*, one of Alice's trademark 'list' artworks which meditates on the passage of time.
- Finish by exploring your shared unconscious heritage and looking into your past and future by playing a game with Alice's brand new *Grandmother's Oracle Cards*, and then writing in *The Book of Grandmothers*.

Alice has also created a number of small artworks, from the beautiful 'Totems' which sit in the palm of your hand and sooth, to 'Snake Oil' - a cure for 'all ailments', alongside her brand new set of exquisite *Grandmother's Oracle* cards which follow on from her highly collectible and sold out *Grandmother's Tarot*. Alice believes using our imaginations makes us all feel better. Her central message incites us to be understanding to ourselves and each other, because what we have in common is far greater than what divides us.

BACKGROUND: Alice Instone has had solo projects with the British Houses of Parliament, the United Nations, the National Trust, Tate Modern, the British Medical Association, Northampton Museum, Chanel, Oxfam, the Royal Society of Arts and legendary Hollywood hotel The Chateau Marmont amongst others. She has had several publications and regularly features in the media, from BBC Woman's Hour to The Guardian. Alice recently won best fantasy film at Cannes Short Film Festival. She frequently collaborates with individuals who are part of our cultural conversation, from Annie Lennox and Dame Evelyn Glennie to Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations Baroness Scotland, Helen McCrory, Sir Peter Blake, Baroness Kennedy and Professor Baroness Greenfield to name a tiny selection.

Much of Alice's work uses shared behaviours, associations and memories to reveal the similarities that bind us together, but also the infinite variety of human truth. She has previously used our to-do lists, our shoes, memories about our grandmothers, giant communal washing lines and playing cards to reveal our commonalities. This sense of interrelatedness is key to her work. Thousands of visitors contributed to-do lists to her 2016 *Pram In The Hall* installation. In 2018 she created a magic art caravan to celebrate International Women's Day for the United Nations. It was seen by tens if not hundreds of thousands of Londoners when it visited Tate Modern Bankside, Carnaby Street and Canary Wharf.

"I was thinking about pilgrimages and how fun it would be to visit an Oracle. I made the first Oracle for people to write down the worst voices in their heads and feed them to her - when I wrote down my own (which say things I wouldn't say to my worst enemy) they seemed quite funny and lost their power. Once the Oracle was sitting in the studio I began to want to bring her to life, which is how the film began..."

Alice Instone



