

The Artistic Reflection Framework on Dali's Tarot cards: The Mystical Secret Uncovered?

By Bruno Hoste

Disclaimer: This document has been generated with the help of AI (CoPilot and ChatGPT). The Artistic Reflection Framework (ARF) is a conceptual thinking framework I developed. I used the content of Dali's Tarot card deck booklet to discover how Dali designed his cards and how he looked at each card specifically, translating each of the Tarot's card properties into visual artistic outcomes. AI allowed me to search for similarities between the conceptual framework (as a guidance tool for human psyche) and the Tarot's card philosophy.

Introduction

I'm a huge fan of Salvador Dali. A lot of people are too, but they have probably never read his books or tried to discover his thinking perspectives on creation (I did). He believed that true art comes from deep within the unconscious mind. Inspired by Freud's ideas, he used dreams, irrational thoughts, and spontaneous imagination to fuel his creativity. Dalí developed a technique called the "paranoiac-critical method," which helped him tap into hidden fears and surreal visions. He saw art not as something logical or perfect, but as a way to explore madness, obsession, and the strange beauty of the human psyche. Surrealism, for him, was a tool to break free from rules and expectations—it allowed him to paint melting clocks, floating objects, and dreamlike landscapes that challenged reality. Dalí didn't aim for perfection; instead, he embraced spontaneity and intuition, believing that imagination mattered more than technical skill. His creative process was intense and ritualistic, often involving long hours of staring at a canvas until an image revealed itself. He once said, "The only difference between me and a madman is that I am not mad," showing how closely he walked the line between genius and insanity. Dalí's reflections on art remind us that creativity isn't always neat or rational—it's often wild, mysterious, and deeply personal. His work invites us to look beyond the surface and explore the strange worlds within ourselves.

Salvador Dalí's was always open to try something new, especially if it was something of mystical nature. In 1984 he published his own Tarot card deck. Originally commissioned for the James Bond film *Live and Let Die*, Dalí continued the project independently for over a decade, finally creating a full 78-card deck. Each card is infused with his signature dreamlike style, merging classical art references with symbolic depth. Dalí portrayed himself as the Magician and his wife Gala as the Empress, reflecting their personal connection to the mystical themes. The deck is not only a tool for divination but a visual journey through Dalí's imagination, rich with colour, symbolism, and eccentric beauty.

I recently won an auction lot "Dali's Tarot Cards", a specific numbered edition box published by Fiebig (Krummish, Königsfurt Germany 2004). I was very interested his artwork design for this endeavour, it was certainly not my intention to go into the mystics of tarot, but in the end I had to read about the tarot cards in order to understand each of the cards and how Dali was inspired by them and how eventually he sculptured his reflection on them.

I'm a scientist and artist, and not really into mystical things like tarot ... but when reading through it I somehow got triggered by the fact that my 'Artistic Reflection Framework' (ARF) might somehow match the Tarot cards. There seemed to be some kind of coincidental link, content wise. So I went into it deep (very deep, maybe too deep 😊) using AI analytics allowing 'easy' integration and comparison, this is what I discovered...

See it as a creative journey (if your open and up for it), nothing more, nothing less ...

What is a Tarot Card deck?

A traditional Tarot deck consists of 78 cards, divided into two main groups: the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana. The Major Arcana includes 22 cards, representing major life themes and spiritual lessons—starting with The Fool (0) and ending with The World (21). The Minor Arcana has 56 cards, split into four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Coins. Each suit contains ten numbered cards (Ace to 10) and four Court Cards: Page, Knight, Queen, and King. Together, the deck reflects both everyday experiences and deeper archetypal journeys.

For content on the Artistic Reflection Framework, see: <https://www.dekunstproeverij.be/en/blog/>.

Each quadrant reflects a distinct moment in thinking area through a combination of:

- **Primitive:** Instinctual, Embodied, Raw experience
 - **Emotional:** Relational, Intuitive, Affective processing
 - **Rational:** Analytical, Reflective, Integrative thought
- and
- **Open:** Inception, Receptivity, Exploration
 - **Change:** Action, Processing, Transformation
 - **Close:** Resolution, Grounding, Integration

If we summarize each Major Arcana card mentioned in the Dali Tarot book in five words, this is what comes out:

- **The Magician:** Creativity, uniqueness, transformation, talent, individuality
- **The High Priestess:** Intuition, mystery, duality, inner-guidance
- **The Empress:** Fertility, beauty, abundance, nurture, femininity
- **The Emperor:** Authority, structure, protection, order, stability
- **The Lovers:** Choice, passion, unity, values, relationship
- **The Chariot:** Willpower, victory, motion, control, determination
- **Strength:** Courage, inner power, patience, resilience
- **The Hermit:** Solitude, introspection, wisdom, guidance, retreat
- **Wheel of Fortune:** Change, destiny, cycles, chance, evolution
- **Justice:** Balance, fairness, truth, decision, responsibility
- **The Hanged Man:** Surrender, new perspective, sacrifice, pause
- **Death:** Transformation, endings, renewal, release, rebirth
- **Temperance:** Harmony, moderation, blending, peace, integration
- **The Devil:** Obsession, temptation, materialism, control, shadow
- **The Tower:** Upheaval, sudden change, awakening, destruction
- **The Star:** Hope, healing, inspiration, serenity, vision
- **The Moon:** Illusion, emotion, subconscious, mystery, dreams
- **The Sun:** Joy, clarity, success, energy, enlightenment
- **Judgment:** Awakening, reflection, redemption, inner calling
- **The World:** Completion, fulfilment, wholeness, travel, celebration
- **The Fool:** Beginning, innocence, spontaneity, freedom, journey

Minor Arcana cards summarized in a five-words for each suit and rank from the Dali Tarot:

Wands (Fire - Action and Will)

- **Ace:** Spark, initiative, drive, birth, breakthrough
- **Two:** Decision, planning, vision, choice, crossroads
- **Three:** Progress, foresight, exploration, momentum, confidence

- **Four:** Celebration, harmony, foundation, joy, stability
- **Five:** Conflict, struggle, rivalry, challenge, competition
- **Six:** Victory, recognition, success, achievement, pride
- **Seven:** Defence, courage, resilience, standing-firm, determination
- **Eight:** Speed, momentum, direction, quickness, movement
- **Nine:** Persistence, strength, fatigue, endurance, protection
- **Ten:** Burden, responsibility, stress, effort, pressure
- **Page:** Curiosity, enthusiasm, energy, message, impulse
- **Knight:** Passion, adventure, charisma, initiative, boldness
- **Queen:** Creativity, leadership, confidence, vitality, vision
- **King:** Power, action, inspiration, command, influence

Cups (Water - Emotions and Relationships)

- **Ace:** Love, new feelings, intuition, purity, start
- **Two:** Union, connection, affection, trust, mutuality
- **Three:** Friendship, celebration, community, support, laughter
- **Four:** Apathy, contemplation, boredom, reassessment, dissatisfaction
- **Five:** Loss, grief, sorrow, regret, emotional-challenge
- **Six:** Nostalgia, memories, innocence, comfort, past
- **Seven:** Choices, illusions, imagination, fantasy, temptation
- **Eight:** Withdrawal, letting-go, search, transition, disillusionment
- **Nine:** Satisfaction, contentment, indulgence, wish, fulfilment
- **Ten:** Happiness, family, harmony, peace, love
- **Page:** Sensitivity, emotional-growth, message, romance, learning
- **Knight:** Charm, idealism, devotion, dreaminess, proposal
- **Queen:** Empathy, nurture, compassion, intuition, grace
- **King:** Control, maturity, wisdom, support, depth

Swords (Air - Intellect and Conflict)

- **Ace:** Clarity, truth, breakthrough, focus, idea
- **Two:** Indecision, stalemate, denial, choice, tension
- **Three:** Heartbreak, sorrow, separation, grief, pain
- **Four:** Rest, recovery, retreat, pause, healing
- **Five:** Defeat, conflict, ego, betrayal, tension
- **Six:** Transition, healing, escape, journey, progress
- **Seven:** Deception, strategy, secrecy, avoidance, cleverness
- **Eight:** Restriction, fear, helplessness, entrapment, limitation
- **Nine:** Anxiety, worry, despair, insomnia, inner-fear
- **Ten:** Collapse, ending, betrayal, crisis, devastation
- **Page:** Curiosity, vigilance, truth-seeking, observation, alertness
- **Knight:** Intensity, boldness, haste, determination, rush
- **Queen:** Clarity, intellect, independence, perception, directness
- **King:** Authority, logic, wisdom, fairness, analysis

Coins (Earth - Material World and Security)

- **Ace:** Opportunity, prosperity, potential, abundance, foundation
- **Two:** Balance, adaptability, juggling, flexibility, choices
- **Three:** Collaboration, skill, teamwork, growth, effort
- **Four:** Control, security, possessiveness, stability, greed
- **Five:** Hardship, loss, insecurity, struggle, lack
- **Six:** Generosity, support, balance, charity, fairness

- **Seven:** Patience, assessment, delay, investment, effort
- **Eight:** Diligence, mastery, learning, dedication, productivity
- **Nine:** Luxury, self-sufficiency, accomplishment, beauty, independence
- **Ten:** Wealth, legacy, family, success, tradition
- **Page:** Ambition, study, opportunity, focus, youth
- **Knight:** Responsibility, dedication, routine, perseverance, reliability
- **Queen:** Nurturing, comfort, wealth, fertility, sensuality
- **King:** Success, abundance, leadership, groundedness, control

Is there a relation to the 'PRIMITIVE-EMOTIONAL-RATIONAL' brain thinking levels?

Looking at the outcomes of the cards above, there seems to be some kind of link with the brain thinking levels of my reflection framework. Thus, which Tarot cards might somehow fall under the 'primitive thinking', 'emotional thinking' and 'rational thinking'? If we loosely align the Tarot cards—especially as Dali's deck interprets them—with the brain's three evolutionary layers (primitive, emotional, rational), here's a symbolic mapping that reflects instinct, emotion, and cognition:

Primitive Brain (Survival, Instincts, Impulses)

- **The Devil** – primal urges, addiction, fear
- **The Tower** – sudden shock, destruction
- **Strength** – inner animal power, instinctual taming
- **Death** – transformation, biological inevitability
- **The Fool** – unconditioned spontaneity, instinctive leap
- **The Empress** – nurturing, sensuality, emotional comfort
- **Five of Wands** – raw conflict, competition
- **Knight of Wands** – impulsive action, fiery survival drive
- **Knight of Swords** – focused mental clarity

Emotional Brain (Feelings, Memories, Connection)

- **The Lovers** – relationships, value bonding
- **The Moon** – fears, illusions, the subconscious
- **The High Priestess** – intuition, inner wisdom
- **Temperance** – balance of emotions
- **All Cups cards** – especially Ace, Two, and Ten
- **Six of Cups** – nostalgia and emotional memory
- **Queen of Cups** – empathy, maturity in feelings

Rational Brain (Thought, Logic, Awareness)

- **Justice** – ethics, fairness, objective reasoning
- **The Magician** – intellect, communication, mastery
- **The Hermit** – introspection, solitary analysis
- **The World** – synthesis and integration
- **The Chariot** – controlled direction, willpower
- **Almost all Swords cards** – especially Ace, King, and Queen
- **Page of Swords** – alertness, nervous tension
- **King of Coins** – grounded logic in materiality

Of course, many cards blend these domains—like **The Star**, which fuses hope (emotional) with vision

(cognitive), or **The Hanged Man**, which can represent surrender (emotional) and perspective shift (rational).

The other remaining Major Arcana that weren't yet placed and intuitively assign them to brain areas, based on their symbolic themes, imagery, and psychological resonance—especially as interpreted in Dali's surrealist style.

Primitive Brain (Instincts, Fear, Survival, Raw Urges)

- **The Wheel of Fortune** – Linked to fate and unpredictability, which trigger primal fear or hope
- **Page of Wands** – Embodies bold, unfiltered, childlike impulse and wonder
- **Eight of Coins** – Mastery through diligent, goal-oriented work (link with rational thinking)

Emotional Brain (Love, Intuition, Empathy, Memory)

- **The Star** – Faith and spiritual renewal that emotionally uplift
- **The Sun** – Childlike joy, clarity, and warmth—pure affective positivity
- **Judgment** – Emotional reckoning, forgiveness, awakening at a soul level
- **Six of Coins** – Giving and receiving, tied to emotional reciprocity
- **Five of Cups** – Mourning and despair that stem from visceral loss
- **Nine of Cups** – Deep satisfaction and heartfelt wishes fulfilled
- **Knight of Cups** – While romantic, his dreaminess leans into instinctual fantasy and emotional seduction
- **Queen of Wands** – Charismatic warmth, relational influence rooted in self-confidence

Rational Brain (Analysis, Awareness, Mastery, Intellect)

- **The Hierophant** – Structured belief systems, tradition, and social reasoning
- **The Hanged Man** – Symbolizes surrender and stillness before transformation, a nervous system response
- **The World** – Integration and completion—clear mental understanding of cycles
- **Ten of Swords** – Signals overwhelm and collapse, evocative of crisis-mode reactivity
- **King of Swords** – Sharp intellect, moral clarity, and strategic thought
- **King of Wands** – Visionary leadership and purposeful direction
- **Queen of Coins** – Practical wisdom, emotional intelligence grounded in physical reality

Of course, many cards contain elements of multiple brain realms. Dali's Tarot, rich in surrealism and contradiction, blurs boundaries as much as it maps them.

Are there links between brain thinking levels and Minor Arcana cards?

Each suit is mapped to the brain's evolutionary triad—primitive, emotional, and rational—based on their elemental symbolism and function, especially through the surrealist and psychological lens of the Dali Tarot:

Primitive Brain (Instinct, Survival, Impulses) → Wands

- **Element:** Fire
- **Keywords:** Action, willpower, instinct, assertion, competition
- **Why:** Wands are all about primal drive—our urges to initiate, conquer, defend, and explore. The fight-or-flight system pulses strongest here. Dali portrays this suit as bursting with energetic tension, raw ambition, and self-assertion—pure *id*, if you will.

Emotional Brain (Feeling, Memory, Empathy) → Cups

- **Element:** Water
- **Keywords:** Emotion, relationships, intuition, moods, memories
- **Why:** Cups embody the heart's terrain. Joy, sorrow, longing, connection—these arise from our limbic system. In the Dali Tarot, this suit often hints at soulful entanglements, nostalgia, and yearning, capturing the murky depths of the subconscious and emotional vulnerability.

Rational Brain (Logic, Awareness, Conscious Thought) → Swords

- **Element:** Air
- **Keywords:** Thought, communication, conflict, intellect, discernment
- **Why:** Swords represent the cerebral world—perception, ideas, critical thinking, ethical dilemmas. Whether sharp in truth or double-edged in conflict, this suit thrives in the prefrontal cortex. Dali's Swords often dissect complexity and cast light on illusions with surgical clarity.

Integrative Brain (Grounding, Mastery, Adaptation) → Coins

- **Element:** Earth
- **Keywords:** Body, materiality, health, work, manifestation
- **Why:** While not a “brain” area per se, Coins bridge the psychic and the physical. This suit embodies how instincts (Wands), emotions (Cups), and thoughts (Swords) manifest in the real world. The earthy domain is the body's wisdom—rhythm, survival, grounded judgment.

Each suit reflects a part of our internal architecture, but Dali's genius was in showing their surreal intersections: how a Cup might leak into a Sword, or how a Coin may be pierced by a Wand.

Is there a relation to the 'OPEN-CHANGE-CLOSE' process levels of the reflection framework?

In a next step the tarot cards were positioned when looking at the phases in brain processes (of the 'artistic reflection framework') and where are they best positioned, in which phase. It is an effort in trying to align the triune brain model *and* Tarot symbolism with the cyclical structure of the ARF: Open → Change → Close. An holistic map below explores how different cards resonate with each phase of creative cognition and transformation.

OPEN (Inception / Receptivity / Exploration)

Brain Phase: *Activation of emotional and primitive instincts; openness to stimuli and subconscious materials*

Tarot Cards:

- **The Fool** – pure openness, trust, beginner's mind
- **The High Priestess** – intuitive depth, inner voice awakens
- **The Star** – inspiration, cosmic hope, imaginative spaciousness
- **Page of Cups / Page of Wands** – innocent curiosity, initial sparks
- **Ace cards (especially Cups & Wands)** – seeds of potential and energetic ignition
- **Knight of Wands** – effort, discipline

Why here? This phase welcomes spontaneity, dreams, unfiltered emotions—qualities these cards embody. The unconscious starts whispering its language.

CHANGE (Action / Processing / Transformation)

Brain Phase: *Emotional and rational brains in dynamic interaction; narrative building, creative struggle, integration*

Tarot Cards:

- **Death** – shedding, metamorphosis, inner alchemy
- **Temperance** – blending, synthesis, emotional regulation
- **Justice** – clarity, ethical evaluation, balanced closure
- **Strength** – managing instincts with grace
- **The Chariot** – willpower and emotional control in motion
- **Judgment** – rebirth, self-assessment, final awakening

Why here? This is the crucible. Emotional courage meets rational alignment. Tarot reflects both the tension and flow between identity, meaning, and the desire for new order.

CLOSE (Resolution / Grounding / Integration)

Brain Phase: *Rational and embodied cognition take lead; insight stabilizes, actions are embedded into identity*

Tarot Cards:

- **The World** – integration, fulfilment, conscious reflection
- **The Hanged Man** – suspended perspective, letting go
- **The Hermit** – wisdom gained through inner illumination
- **King of Swords / Queen of Coins** – mastery of thought and embodiment
- **Ten of Cups / Ten of Coins** – emotional and material closure
- **Eight of Coins** – effort, discipline

Why here? The insights anchor. What began as fluid or chaotic now becomes crystallized meaning. This is the return from the descent—with gifts.

Now looking at each of the nine individual ARF matrix quadrants, what can we find?

Each quadrant can now be looked individually within this context: Impulse (Open-Primitive), Triggers (Open-Emotional), Amplifiers (Open-Rational), Elementary needs (Change-Primitive), Connection (Change-Emotional), Meaning (Change-Rational), Motivations (Close-Primitive), Persistence (Close-Emotional), and Engagement (Close-Rational).

1. **IMPULSE: OPEN-PRIMITIVE** – is where wild instinct meets fresh possibility. This is the phase when the subconscious sparks before interpretation, like a fire catching dry leaves. It's impulsive receptivity, pre-verbal yearning, and sensory ignition.

Cards Ideal for OPEN – PRIMITIVE: *Instinctual Curiosity, Raw Awakening*

- **The Fool** – unfiltered instinct, leap before logic
- **Page of Wands** – childlike eagerness, primal courage
- **Ace of Wands** – first flare of desire, fire of will, new drives awakened, potent ignition
- **The Devil** – temptation awakening from sleep, breaking chains through primal confrontation
- **Knight of Wands** – rush of action before awareness, (link change) volatile momentum, transformation through action
- **Eight of Wands** – flight, reaction, speed before thought
- **The Empress** – sensual, fertile openness to life, (link to emotional abundance, sensory blossoming)

These cards don't think—they *throb*. They represent that very first hum in the belly, the twitch of the hand before the brush meets canvas. No moral, no plan, just motion and instinct rising from the root of being.

2. **TRIGGERS: OPEN-EMOTIONAL** – space where the heart starts to stir, memories surface, and intuitive feeling begins shaping experience. This phase merges *emotional receptivity* with beginnings. Think of it as *feeling your way into a creative impulse* before language or analysis sets in.

Cards Ideal for OPEN – EMOTIONAL: *Emotional Awakening, Intuitive Receptivity*

- **The High Priestess** – inner voice rising, sacred stillness
- **Ace of Cups** – surge of love, new emotional flow
- **Two of Cups** – initial bond, mutual attraction
- **Page of Cups** – wide-eyed heart, sensitivity emerging
- **The Star** – gentle hope, spiritual openness, emotional hope, but mental openness to cosmic inspiration, clear-headed optimism with visionary quality, calm hope, faith in a renewed future (close)
- **Two of Cups** – start of enduring connection, mutual closure (close)
- **Six of Cups** – nostalgia, childhood joy revisited

This phase is like entering a dream or falling in love—**emotion is the guide**, and intuition has the mic. There's a softness here, a willingness to listen to what moves beneath the surface.

3. **AMPLIFIERS: OPEN-RATIONAL** – suggests a mindset that's *curious but structured, exploratory yet mentally alert*, a fusion of receptivity and cognition. So in the Tarot, we look for cards that symbolize fresh thought, logical awakening, or intellectual receptiveness without the emotional saturation or raw instinct of the other brain layers.

Cards Ideal for OPEN-RATIONAL: *Curious Mind Meets Clear Thought*

- **The Magician** – Begins the journey with intellectual awareness, communicative spark, and cognitive intent. *Open to potential, yet mentally directed.*

- **Ace of Swords** – Birth of mental clarity, truth, and discernment. *The first crack of rational insight entering consciousness.*
- **Page of Swords** – Inquisitive, analytical, vigilant. *A youthful embodiment of questioning and cognitive alertness.*

This phase values clarity without conclusion, questions over certainty, awareness without closure. These cards are *not* processing transformation yet—they're lighting the match and opening the windows of perception.

4. **ELEMENTARY: CHANGE–PRIMITIVE** – captures the wild, visceral intensity of transformation led by instinct and body, rather than emotional reflection or logical reasoning.

Cards Ideal for CHANGE – PRIMITIVE : *Instinctual Upheaval, Crisis, Physical Transformation*

- **Death** – raw biological change, the instinctive end of cycles, link to profound emotional release and regeneration
- **The Tower** – sudden shock, primal reaction to collapse
- **Strength** – taming inner beasts, animal courage during upheaval
- **The Wheel of Fortune** – surrender to fate's motion/roulette disrupting stasis
- **Knight of Swords** – Swift, precise, and mentally driven in pursuit of truth. *Embodies the propulsion of the mind at the moment it's activated*
- **Five of Wands** – raw competition, unsocialized drive
- **Ten of Wands** – instinctual overload, survival through strain
- **Five of Swords** – power clash, reptilian brain dominance (also rational change)
- **Seven of Wands** – defensive instincts flaring under threat

This phase is all nerve endings and adrenal surge—the kind of shift you don't rationalize until long after it passes. Change here happens **to** you—or **through** you—before awareness catches up. Think of shedding a skin, leaping from fire, or choosing to survive.

5. **CONNECTION: CHANGE–EMOTIONAL** – this quadrant represents the terrain of *emotional transformation*: healing, inner conflict, grief, forgiveness, and the tender unravelling and rebirth of the heart. It's where feeling deepens, collides, and reshapes identity.

Cards Ideal for CHANGE – EMOTIONAL: *Emotional intensity, personal reckoning, psychic growth*

- **The Lovers** – choice born from emotional conflict or desire, established commitment, bonded unity (link to close thinking)
- **Temperance** – emotional balance, healing through blending, restored emotional balance, peace offering (link to close thinking)
- **Judgment** – forgiveness, redemption, soul-deep calling, emotional rebirth, reckoning with grace (link to close thinking)
- **The Moon** – subconscious stirring, dreamlike, dreams begin to whisper
- **Five of Cups** – grief, mourning, emotional reckoning
- **Eight of Cups** – leaving behind attachments to grow
- **Three of Swords** – heartbreak, loss that clarifies
- **Knight of Cups** – emotional pursuit that deepens through challenge, romantic yearning, imaginative drift

This phase may bring catharsis, heartache, or release—but always in the service of renewal. It's as if the psyche is learning to *feel with more dimension*. Change here is not an argument—it's a *revelation*.

6. **MEANING: CHANGE-RATIONAL**

This quadrant represents the landscape of cognitive transformation: insight, realization, mental clarity, ethical reckoning, and the restructuring of belief systems. It's where ideas evolve, truths are confronted, and the intellect is refined through challenge and contemplation.

Cards ideal for CHANGE – RATIONAL: *Intellectual growth and paradigm shifts, moral and ethical discernment, strategic decision-making, clarity after confusion, mental resilience and recalibration*

- **Justice** – final decision-making, ethical alignment or reckoning, truth revealed, accountability, rational fairness, anchors decisions in logic and integrity
- **Chariot** – determined focus, strategic navigation, mental control over emotional impulses, victory through discipline, integration of opposing forces
- **Two of Swords** – mental stalemate, difficult decision, need for clarity, rational tension before resolution
- **Eight of Swords** – mental entrapment, limiting beliefs, need for cognitive liberation, confronting illusions to regain clarity
- **Queen of Swords** – objective perception, discernment, mature insight

7. **MOTIVATION: CLOSE-PRIMITIVE** – expresses instinctual drive, grounded motivation, and raw determination. This quadrant is all about visceral action, territorial instinct, and survival-based effort—so we're looking for cards that reflect embodied will and protective energy.

Cards Ideal for CLOSE – PRIMITIVE: *rooted in the body, driven by need, and focused on tangible outcomes, relentless stamina, holding the line with bruised determination, reflects a raw motivational force that's deeply personal and often protective*

- **Knight of Coins** – relentless pursuit, physical endurance, territorial loyalty, focused, methodical effort rooted in survival instinct
- **Page of Coins** – hunger to learn, resource-driven curiosity, instinct to grow, grounded ambition, tactile exploration of potential
- **Four of Wands** - tribal celebration, territorial pride, instinct to claim space, close-knit bonding, protective joy, rooted in belonging
- **Six of Wands** – victory display, ego assertion, primal need for recognition, motivated by status and dominance within the group
- **Nine of Wands** – defensive vigilance, survival fatigue, instinct to endure, hyper-focused protection, guarding territory and self
- **Four of Coins** - hoarding, possessiveness, fear of loss, territorial control, close thinking driven by scarcity and self-preservation
- **Eight of Coins** – gritty repetition, survival through skill, instinct to master, focused labour, tactile learning, grounded motivation
- **Nine of Coins** – self-sufficiency, earned territory, instinctual pride in autonomy, close thinking rooted in earned power and independence

8. **PERSISTENCE: CLOSE-EMOTIONAL** – where emotions have flowed, transformed, and are now ready to settle into wisdom, forgiveness, or lasting connection. It's the emotional *integration* phase—heartfelt closure, reflective grace, or the quiet contentment after a storm.

Cards Ideal for CLOSE – EMOTIONAL: *Emotional resolution, healing, fulfilment, inner peace*

- **The Sun** – radiant warmth, sustained heart happiness
- **Queen of Cups** – emotional maturity, serenity, deep care, empathic resonance, emotional tuning, holding emotional space amid flux
- **Ten of Cups** – peak joy becoming integration, emotional harmony, homecoming joy
- **Four of Cups** – emotional pause, re-evaluation before moving on

This isn't the thrill of new love or the sting of loss—it's the *still water after reflection*. It's where forgiveness becomes strength, joy feels earned, and relationships—past and present—are held with compassion rather than ache.

9. **ENFAGEMENT: CLOSE–RATIONAL** – the final arc of the intellectual journey. Here, the mind isn't searching or solving—it's *synthesizing*. This quadrant honours clarity after complexity, understanding forged by contemplation, and the wisdom that settles once thought becomes insight.

Cards Ideal for CLOSE – RATIONAL: *Resolution of thought, clarity, judgment, cognitive integration*

- **The Hermit** – Inner reflection with intellectual rigor. *He seeks light not through emotion, but introspective analysis.*
- **The World** – total understanding, logical completeness
- **The Hermit** – quiet wisdom, perspective from solitude
- **King of Swords** – intellectual authority, reasoned clarity
- **Temperance** – mindful balance, rational-emotional synthesis
- **Eight of Coins** – methodical learning, mastery realized
- **Ace of Swords** – mental clarity, cutting through ambiguity
- **Knight of Swords** – purposeful mental closure, swift truth
- **Six of Swords** – transition through understanding, mental release

This is *conscious closure*—the point where experience is translated into language or decision. It's a mind at rest, not because it's tired, but because it *knows*.

Main question: can we reconstruct a complete matrix combining the ‘Artistic Reflection Framework’ and the ‘Tarot cards’?

The Artistic Reflection Framework consists of a 9-quadrant matrix aligning each of the 78 Tarot cards to the most fitting combination of:

- **Brain Level:** Primitive, Emotional, or Rational
- **Phase of Process:** Open, Change, or Close

Each card appears only once in the quadrant that best reflects its symbolic essence.

Tarot	Quadrant	Matrix	(Brain × Process)
	PRIMITIVE	EMOTIONAL	RATIONAL
OPEN	The Fool, Empress, Devil Wands: Page, Knight Wands: 1, 8 Coins: 1, 2 (9)	High Priestess, Star Cups: Page Cups: 1, 2, 6 (6)	Magician, Hierophant Swords: Page Wands: 2 Swords: 1 (5)
CHANGE	Wheel of Fortune, Strength, Death, Tower Swords: Knight Wands: 5, 7, 10 Coins: 5, 7 (10)	Lovers, Temperance, Moon, Judgment Cups: Knight, King Cups: 5, 7, 8 Swords: 3, 9 (11)	Chariot, Justice Swords: Queen Wands: 3 Swords: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 Coins: 3 (11)
CLOSE	Coins: Knight, Page Wands: 4, 6, 9 Coins: 4, 8, 9 (8)	Sun Wands: Queen Cups: Queen Cups: 3, 4, 9, 10 Coins: 6 (8)	Ruler, Hermit, Hanged Man, World Wands: King Swords: King Coins: Queen, King Swords: 4 Coins: 10 (10)
	27	25	26
			78

Remark: it is quite apparent that the cards are quite well (balanced) distributed across the different brain levels AND the different process phases. However, each card is placed for its dominant psychological function and its phase of transformation, whether it opens perception, catalyses change, or resolves experience. Some cards—like The Moon or Queen of Swords—were wrestled into just one spot even though they resonate across domains.

Cards Placed with 100% Confidence

Here are the Tarot cards that align *clearly and exclusively* with one quadrant based on symbolism, psychological tone, and role in the Dali Tarot. These 14 assignments carry minimal ambiguity.

	Primitive	Emotional	Rational
Open	The Fool, Page of Wands	High Priestess, Ace of Cups	The Magician, Ace of Swords
Change	Death, The Tower	Five of Cups, Temperance	Justice
Close	Four of Wands	Ten of Cups	King of Swords

These cards have a consistent message and energy that lands firmly in their assigned psychological and transformational quadrant.

Ambiguous / Flexible Placement Cards

Then we have the remaining cards with **suggested options** based on their themes. These placements can shift slightly depending on interpretive emphasis (intuition, imagery, or emotional tone).

Card	Possible Quadrants
The Empress	Open–Emotional / Open–Primitive
The Emperor	Close–Rational / Change–Rational
The Lovers	Open–Emotional / Change–Emotional / Close–Emotional
The Chariot	Change–Rational / Change–Primitive
Strength	Change–Primitive / Change–Emotional
The Hermit	Open–Rational / Close–Rational
Wheel of Fortune	Open–Primitive / Change–Primitive / Change–Emotional
The Hanged Man	Change–Rational / Change–Emotional
The Devil	Open–Primitive / Change–Primitive
The Star	Open–Emotional / Close–Emotional
The Moon	Open–Emotional / Change–Primitive / Close–Emotional
The Sun	Close–Emotional / Open–Emotional
Judgment	Change–Emotional / Close–Rational
The World	Close–Rational / Close–Emotional
Knight of Wands	Open–Primitive / Change–Primitive
Queen of Wands	Close–Emotional / Close–Rational
King of Wands	Close–Primitive / Close–Rational
Page of Cups	Open–Emotional / Change–Emotional
Knight of Cups	Change–Emotional / Open–Emotional
Queen of Cups	Close–Emotional
King of Cups	Change–Emotional / Close–Emotional
Two of Cups	Open–Emotional / Close–Emotional
Three of Cups	Close–Emotional / Open–Emotional
Four of Cups	Close–Emotional
Six of Cups	Open–Emotional / Close–Emotional
Seven of Cups	Change–Emotional / Open–Emotional
Eight of Cups	Change–Emotional
Nine of Cups	Close–Emotional / Change–Emotional
Ten of Swords	Change–Emotional / Change–Primitive
Page of Swords	Open–Rational / Open–Primitive
Knight of Swords	Change–Primitive / Change–Rational
Queen of Swords	Close–Rational
King of Coins	Close–Rational / Close–Primitive

Card	Possible Quadrants
Queen of Coins	Close–Emotional / Close–Rational
Knight of Coins	Close–Primitive
Page of Coins	Open–Primitive / Open–Rational
Ace of Wands	Open–Primitive
Ace of Coins	Open–Rational / Open–Primitive
Ace of Cups	Open–Emotional
Ace of Swords	Open–Rational
Five of Coins	Change–Primitive / Change–Emotional
Three of Coins	Change–Rational
Seven of Coins	Change–Rational / Close–Rational
Ten of Coins	Close–Rational / Close–Primitive
Six of Swords	Close–Rational
Five of Swords	Change–Primitive
Seven of Swords	Change–Rational
Two of Swords	Change–Rational
Four of Swords	Close–Rational
Three of Swords	Change–Emotional
Nine of Swords	Change–Emotional / Change–Primitive
Ten of Wands	Change–Primitive
Nine of Wands	Close–Primitive
Six of Wands	Close–Primitive / Close–Rational
Seven of Wands	Change–Primitive
Two of Wands	Open–Rational / Change–Rational
Three of Wands	Change–Rational / Open–Primitive
Four of Coins	Close–Primitive / Close–Rational
Six of Coins	Close–Emotional / Close–Rational
Eight of Coins	Change–Rational
Nine of Coins	Close–Rational
Ten of Coins	Close–Rational / Close–Emotional

This distinction gives you a **core foundation** of certainty and a **dynamic layer** of intuitive flexibility—exactly the kind of fusion Dali might enjoy.

A structured table showing the ambiguous Tarot cards—the ones whose symbolism spans more than one quadrant—and the quadrants they could fit into within the combined Triune Brain × Artistic Reflection Framework.

Ambiguous Tarot Cards Matrix

Card	Open— Primitive	Change— Primitive	Close— Primitive	Open— Emotional	Change— Emotional	Close— Emotional	Open— Rational	Change— Rational	Close— Rational
The Empress	✓			✓					
The Moon	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Wheel of Fortune	✓	✓			✓				
Page of Coins	✓		✓				✓		
Page of Swords	✓						✓		
Knight of Swords		✓						✓	
Knight of Cups		✓		✓		✓			
Knight of Wands	✓	✓							
Queen of Wands			✓	✓		✓			
Queen of Coins				✓					✓
King of Wands			✓						✓
King of Cups		✓			✓	✓			
King of Coins			✓						✓
The Lovers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
The Chariot		✓						✓	
The Hanged Man		✓			✓			✓	
Judgment		✓			✓	✓			✓
Two of Cups				✓		✓			
Six of Cups				✓		✓			
Seven of Cups		✓		✓	✓				
Ten of Swords		✓			✓				
Seven of Coins								✓	✓
Two of Wands	✓	✓					✓		
Three of Wands	✓	✓					✓		
Ten of Coins			✓		✓	✓			✓
The Star				✓		✓	✓		
The Sun				✓		✓			
Queen of Swords							✓		✓
The World					✓	✓			✓
The Hermit	✓						✓		✓

You could use this matrix to tailor readings depending on whether you're emphasizing a card's instinctive, emotional, or rational tone—or whether you're exploring beginnings, transformation, or resolution.