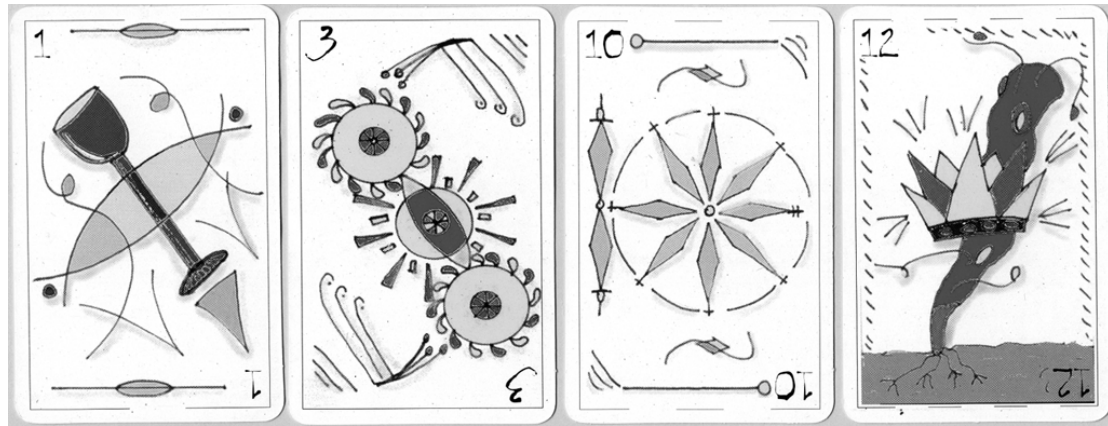


Naipes Siglo XXI - 21st Century Playing Cards

Review by Simon Wintle

40 cards + title card + 2006 calendar card in plastic box, Spanish suited, limited numbered edition of 250 packs; printed in Buenos Aires by Unigraf, original designs by Florencia Marotta. Price €12 (euros) + shipping. Europe: €6 (up to 150 grs, 1 deck) - €10 (up to 500 grs, 5 decks). info@asacon.com.ar / www.asacon.com.ar



Florencia Marotta studied architecture. Since secondary school, Florencia always liked drawing and painting; she studied drawing with Luis Dotori, the social realist painter. To begin with she produced oil paintings, but now she enjoys technical drawing with rulers and pens, and more recently computer-aided design.

"I believe I found my own style of drawing around 1990, when I was 17. Since that time my drawings have a similar language, symbolism and use of space. My cards are very symbolical, possibly because religion, war and chaos in general were the topics which moved me during my teenage years, and still do today. I wanted the cards to be dynamic, reflecting the times in which we live where everything is ephemeral, fast, accelerated, in constant change and movement. For this reason I chose the title "Naipes Siglo XXI" (21st Century Playing Cards)".

The cups cards depict different types of cup: religious chalices, goblets, champagne glasses, and so on. The coins symbolise not only money, also power, in particular Inca power, and religious or diabolical power where the catholic cross, the rosary and the trident are also present. Swords are variants on a theme, with more unusually shaped blades, such as ritualistic and magical daggers, scimitars or sabres as used by the Romans, the Saracens, the Arabs or the Egyptians. Batons are simply based on the traditional knobby cudgel found in Spanish-suited packs.

The court cards are represented numerically, or by the combination of various aspects of the suit symbol and rank to which they belong. *"It was meaningless and inappropriate to draw figures based on the traditional designs; in such an abstract pack human figures or silhouettes would have been out of place."*