



GRIEF DECK

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY TO DO WHEN SURVIVORS
CANNOT GRIEVE THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONES
IN THE TRADITIONAL METHOD?

During the early stages of the COVID19 pandemic, the metropolitan New York City region experienced a high infection rate and a proportionally higher mortality rate. Our partners in NYCVOAD who provided support to surviving families were challenged with being unable to grieve in the more traditional means. Religious services were suspended due to minimizing close encounters in order to reduce the spread of the disease.

As one of two founding organizations, The Elevated Studio joined forces with Artists' Literacies Institute, an organization promoting visual and performing artists around the world. Together, we collaborated with our respective networks to create The Artist's Grief Deck. A set of tarot-sized cards, one side displays an original artwork, created by artists from around the world responding to our open call, and on the reverse is a 'grieving prompt.' These are memorial and processual actions that give the individual something to do – a gesture, a tiny performance, a movement, an act of mindfulness – in memoriam for someone or something whose loss they are grieving

