

Mythical Creatures : Monochrome Edition Review

By Sandra Geddes

It's not much of a secret to anyone that knows me that I'm a big fan of Baba Studios. I've been in love with their work since receiving the Alice deck as a birthday gift and



have bought several of their other decks since. So, when I saw that they were producing a limited edition deck based around world Folklore and Fairytale, another love of mine, I of course had to have it .

The Mythical Creatures : Monochrome Edition, is a limited edition deck of 500 numbered copies. The cards are conceived by Karen Mahony with Illustration and Artwork by Elena Kozachuk and Alex Ukolov. All copies include a cover card signed by Karen and Alex.

My copy of the deck arrived in a custom wooden box with clasp so it really is like opening a little treasure chest.

Inside the box the deck itself comes in a handmade gilded linen pouch that looks and feels really luxurious. There is also a 40 page guide book written by Sophie Nussle.

The cards feature a 'fantastical bestiary' of mythical creatures from stories told all over the world. Some are more well known figures such as Poseidon representing the Chariot and or The Phoenix for Judgement, whilst others are more mysterious and less known such as the Irish, Amadan Mor.

There are 78 cards with 21 Majors, 16 Court cards and 56 Minor cards. The Court cards are named as Page, Knight, Queen and King. Each features a figure or creature linked to their element.

For example the Page of Swords shows a Sylph and the Queen of Wands, a Chinese Dragon. The elemental correspondence for the suits are Air - Swords, Fire- Wands, Water - Cups and Earth- Pentacles. The Minor cards are in a non scenic 'pip' style but no less beautiful for it. This limited edition includes 4 extra art cards.





The backs of the cards have an intricate design with a bronze ink overprint. The card stock is of the usual high quality I have come to expect from Baba Studios. The cards are slightly on the larger side at 5.4 x 3.4 ins.

The guide book includes a short description of each of the creatures featured and how they relate to the card they represent.

There are also upright and reversed keyword suggestions. There is a full companion book planned for the future.

The guide book also includes some suggested spreads such as The Prague Threshold Spread and The Sphinx Spread: To discover what is hidden.

I had a lot of anticipation for this deck and will say it does not disappoint. Each card is exquisitely illustrated in real depth of detail. The overall feel of the cards conjures the image of a book of Medieval fairytales and you really feel you are looking at something special and secret full of hidden knowledge and lore. I especially love the Justice and Death cards which feature the Harpy and the Basilisk respectively. This is a truly beautiful deck of cards.

I'm going to really enjoy exploring this deck fully and can see it becoming a favorite in my collection.

You can find out more about Baba Studios and their work at baba-store.com



All deck images © Karen Mahony and Alex Ukolov 2016

At a glance

No. Cards: 78

No. of Majors: 0-22

No. of Minors: 0-10

Courts: Page, Knight, Queen, King.

Artist: Elena Kozachuk, Alex Ukolov

Author: Karen Mahony

Borderless: No

Corners: Rounded

Packaging: Gilded pouch and wooden box.

Size: Large, 5.4 x 3.4 ins.