

# TAROCCHI RICERCA

Original Italian edition of non-divinatory and performative deck conceived  
by Cynthia Montier from the *Research Tarot* (2019–2025).

The *Research Tarot* is an editorial, somatic & performative device  
consisting of a non-divinatory tarot.

It is constituted of an evolving number of cards.

The tarot is composed of both the major and minor arcana,  
which are archetypes (blades) inspired by classical divinatory tarot cards  
structure (Rider Waite, Lenormand, Marseille),  
embodying the symbolic power attributed to each card.

In contrast to the traditional divination cartomancy,  
the *Research Tarot* draws on a genealogy of intentional  
modes of expression, gestures  
and socially-engaged postures that predate it.

Each figure is associated with an unfinished corpus of documents.

In the manner of a repertory, it gathers references  
of documented and commented gestures, of concrete actions,  
of situations derived from the public space,  
or taken from a documentary or bibliographical field.

The gestures gathered relate to ritual, performance  
and militantism, manifesting from the point of bodies.

Each reading engages a conversation in the perspective  
of an intervention; a research, an interview,  
or a performative gesture.

The cards are meant to be used as a tool  
for somatic and collective ways.

The cards draw from reality, which are tested  
and replaced as situations arise, in perpetual renewal.

Rather than predicting, the research tarot uses fortune-telling  
as a support for intuitive, collective reading and experimentation.  
It is thought of both as an object of mediation and transmission,  
as a communication system allowing to act on the material world.

Italian edition  
32 cards

Printed in Rome in April 2025

One of the methods of drawing and reading the tarot is known as the cross spread.

Each drawing of the tarot is motivated by an intention that precedes it.

The cross spread thus offers a possible reading of it.

The cards are read from left to right, top to bottom, passing through the centre, which is the last card read.

The first card drawn is the one lying on the left [ **I** ],  
representing resources in relation to the intention  
which starts the reading:  
strengths, advantages and recourses.

The second card drawn is the one lying on the right [ **II** ],  
representing resistances in relation to the intention:  
pitfalls, blockages, or defences.

The third card is at the top of the spread [ **III** ], and represents the  
charge of potential with regards to the intention:  
reserves, chances and performances.

The fourth card is situated at the bottom of the spread [ **IV** ].  
It represents the particular commitment regarding the intention:  
vectors, paths, or influences.

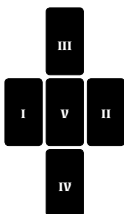
The fifth card is in the centre [ **V** ], at the base of the spread.  
It shows affects in relation to intention:  
consecrations, devotion, or qualifications.

The first two cards drawn at the end of the spread act  
in a position of duality. If the forces of the mobilised arcana  
are equivalent, the intention can be negotiated or constrained.

The third card at the top operates in magnetism  
with the first and the second,  
which allows for a more straightforward reading.

The third card leads to the fourth to specify the axis  
of the committed intention.

The fifth card, known as the base, opens with a proposal.  
From the global draw, the proposal should be narrated  
and activated in the public space.



**I** Strengths, advantages and recourses

**II** Pitfalls, blockages, and defence

**III** Reserves, chances and performances

**IV** Vectors, paths and influences

**V** Affects, consecrations, and qualifications

# MONUMENTUM



*An 'invasate' straddling the altar leans in to kiss the relic of San Paolo  
Capella di San Paolo, Galatina (IT), 1955*



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# VEIL



*Women textile workers weaving fabrics for their rights*  
Rome (IT), 26.05.1978



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# RITUALIS



*The group Artemide Donne Lesbiche in rivolta unfurls their banner in procession  
Rome (IT), 08.03.1979*



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# MONUMENTUM

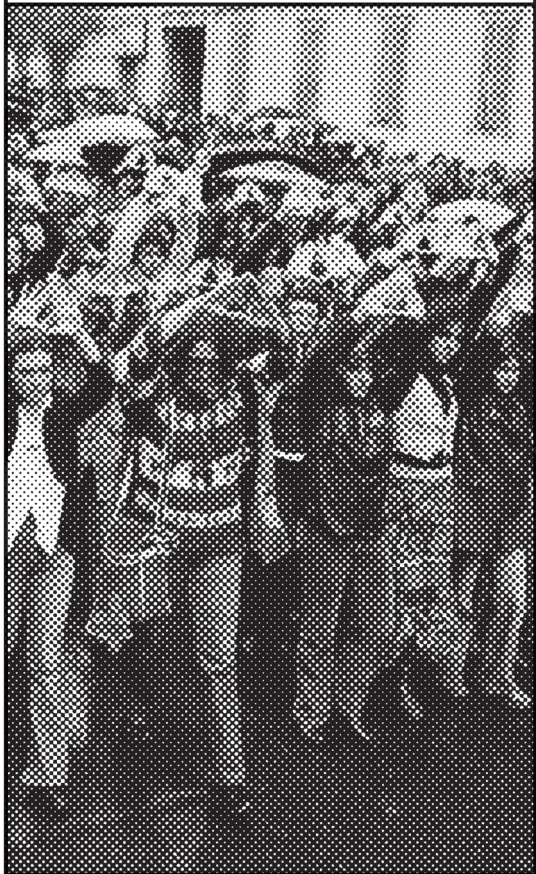


*Le sciopero delle tabacchine: picket of the women in struggle  
Rome (IT), 1970*





# CARMEN



*Funeral procession of women in struggle marching for Giordiana Masi  
Rome (IT), 17.05.1977*



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# VOTO



*Women conjuring against the amendment that overturns the law on sexual violences  
Rome (IT), 05.01.1983*



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# MONUMENTUM



*Women of the UDI (Unione Donne Italiane)  
laying flowers for the victims of Via Fani  
Rome (IT), 16.93.1979*



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# CARMEN



*Anna Freddi with dolls around her neck after the CISA clinic raid  
and the arrest of 40 women for abortion*

Rome (IT), 18.01.1975

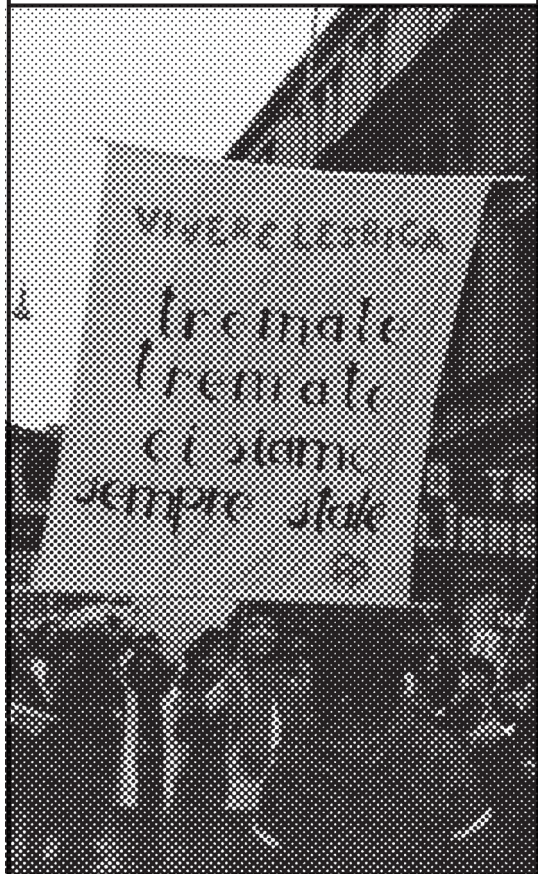


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# PARABOLA



*"Tremble, tremble, we have always existed"*

*Women under a "Vivere lesbica" banner demonstrating against religious oppression*

*Rome (IT), 08.03.1986*



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# FATUM



*Torch-lit procession against violences on women  
by the the collective Riprendiamoci la notte  
Rome (IT), 27.09.1976*



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# RITUALIS



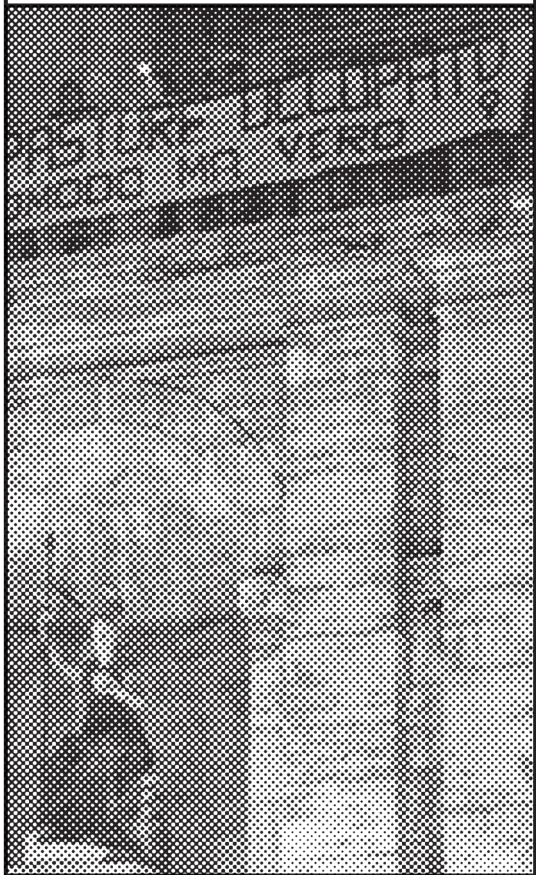
*The Holy Vagina in 'frocessione' for the Trans Resurrection  
during Trans Visibility Day  
Rome (IT), 20.04.2024*



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# MONUMENTUM



*The capitol of the Buon Pastore occupied  
by the women of the Centro Femminista Internazionale Alma Sabatini  
Santa Croce alla Lungara, Rome (IT), 08.03.1989*



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# RITUALIS



*Puppet of the patriarchy brandished by the procession  
of the women of the Collettivo Pompeo Magno  
Rome (IT), 08.03.1976*



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# ALTAR



*Donations bracelets and votive chains offered  
by anonymous devotees at the Madre del Bell'amore  
Villa Borghese, Rome (IT), 2023*



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# VEIL



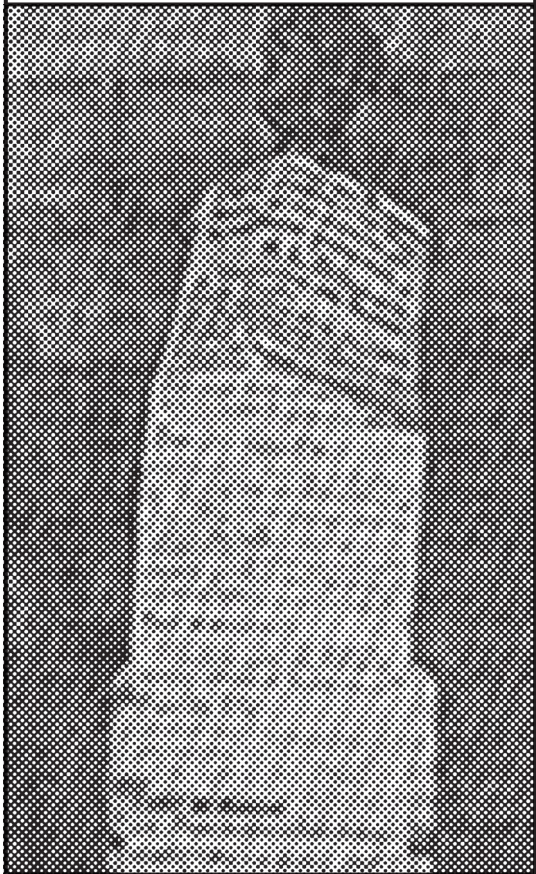
*"We are all in freedom": women in front of the headquarters of the RAI TV channel  
brandish their hooves against the impunity of Claudia Caputo's rapists  
Rome (IT), 04.04.1977*



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# PARABOLA



*Votive cartel on the talking statue of the Pasquino  
for the occupation of the Women's House of the old government  
Rome (IT), 11.10.1976*





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# LAPIS



*A pilgrim woman touches a wall of the cave of S. Venanzio in Raiano  
to invoke the thaumaturgical gifts of the Saint*  
L'Aquila (IT), 05.1966



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# CARMEN



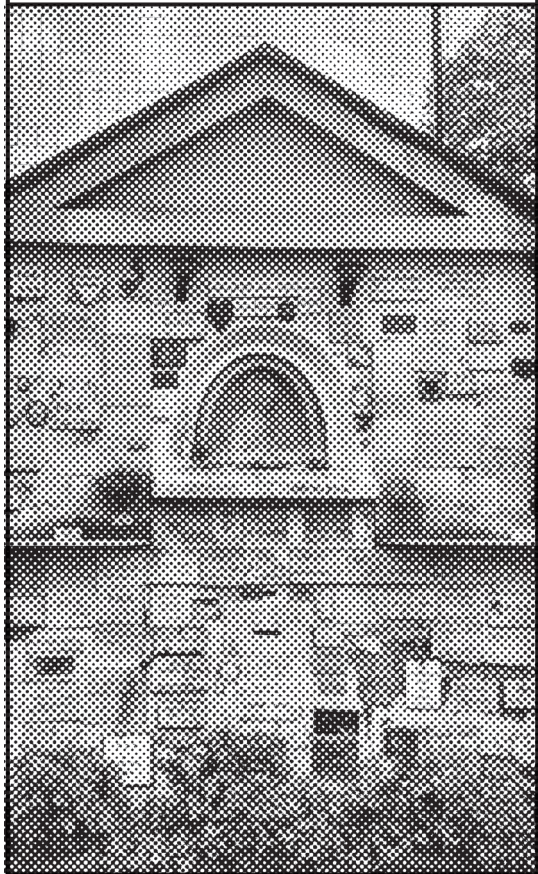
*Ritual of cessation of the patriarchy in celebration of the anniversary  
of the occupation of the clinic of Policlinico Umberto I and the approval of Law 194  
Rome (IT), 22.06.2023*



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# VOTO



*Anonymous messages and love wishes on the ex-voto wall  
dedicated to the Madonna degli Orfani*

Rome (IT), 2023



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# SIGIL

*Marian apparitions from Međugorje and miraculous messages  
reported on the ex-voto wall dedicated to the Madonna degli Orfani*

Rome (IT), 2023





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# RITUALIS



*Ceremonial procession of women at the Statuary Hall of the Capitol  
in honor of Inez Milholland symbol of suffragist martyrdom  
Paris (FR), 25.12.1916*



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# RITUALIS



*Processional dancers with castanets during a Montemarane tarantella*  
Montemarano (IT), n.d.



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# ALTAR



*Votive edicule covered with banners and ribbons  
in the colors of the city crowned champion of Italy for the Scudetto  
Naples (IT), 05.05.2023*





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# VEIL



*Party "Waiting for the police" organized by the Streghe group at the Capitol  
to cope with the eviction from the women's house*

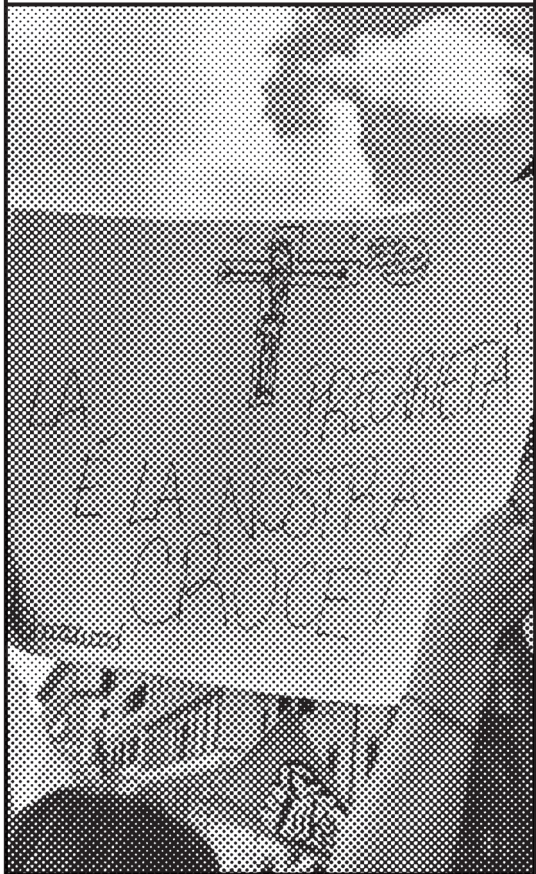
Rome (IT), 10.10.1977



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# SIGIL



*"Precarity is our cross": symbolic sign against precarity and social violences  
during the national demonstration for universal income*

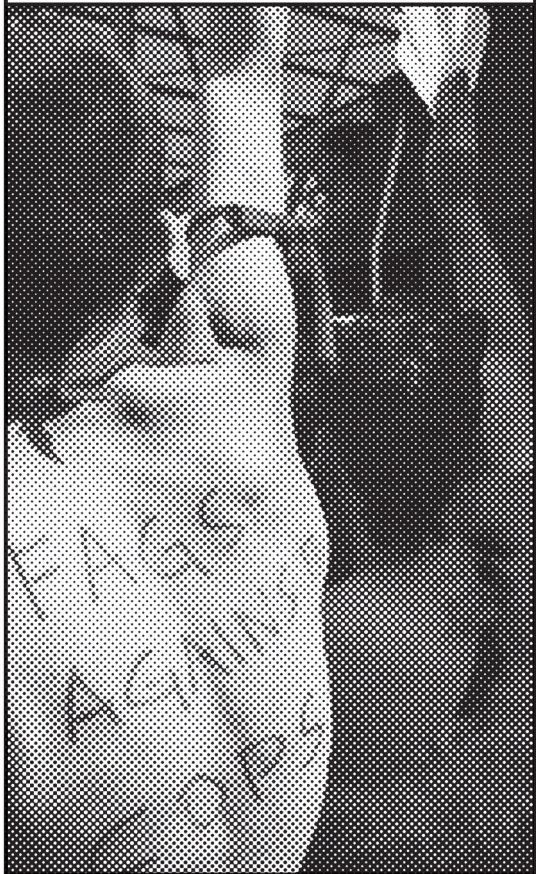
Rome (IT), 27.05.2023



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# VEIL



*"Fags against cops": body sign for queer rights  
and intersectional justice during the priot radical pride  
Rome (IT), 01.06.2023*



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# VOTO



*"Solidarity with women in prison and in administrative detention center"*

*Graffiti in support of women detained in Italy*

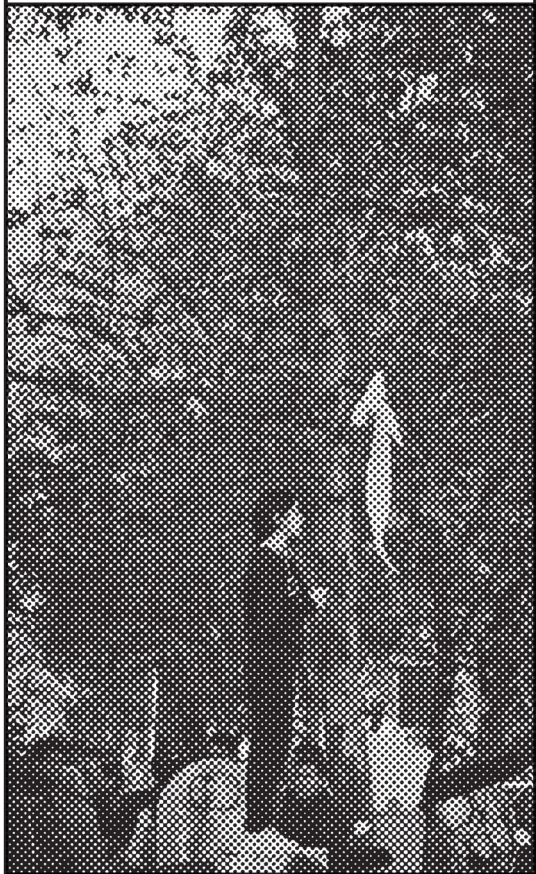
Rome (IT), 2023



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# VEIL



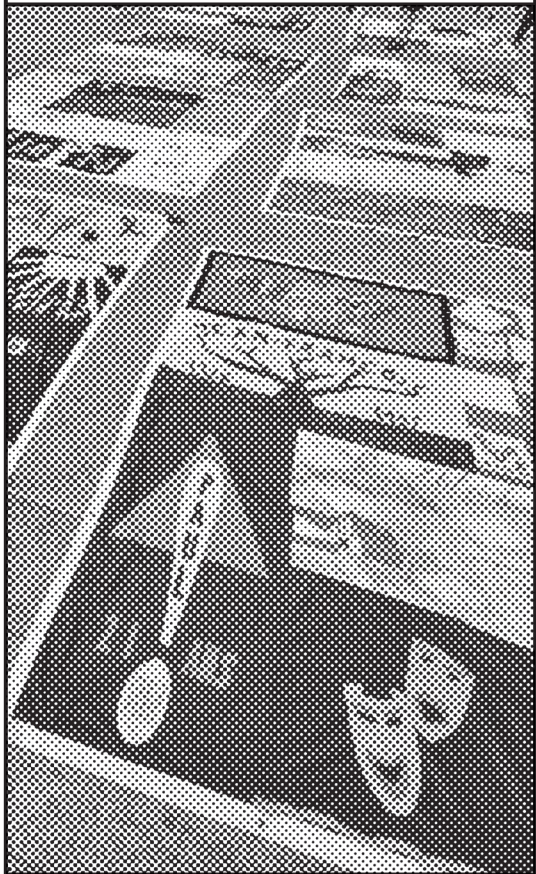
*Vida Movahed lifting her head scarf into the air on Tehran's Enghelad Street*  
Tehran (IR), 27.12.2017



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# MONUMENTUM



*Ceremony of deployment of the Patchwork of Names for Candlelight Day:  
day of remembrance of those who died of AIDS*

Paris (FR), 21.05.2023



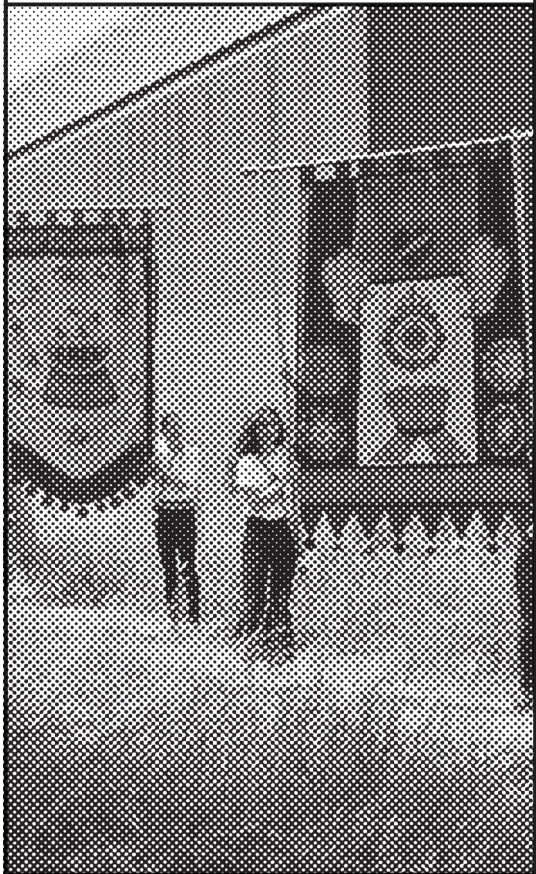


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# VEIL



*Procession banners in memory of the suffragettes imprisoned  
during their struggle for the right to vote by Lucy + Jorge Orta*  
London (UK), 1918-2018



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# VOTO



*Embroidered red hand as a symbol against the Birman military junta*  
Naypyidaw (MM), 12.02.2021



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