SHADOW ANIMALS

by Rob Elford

How to make Shadow Animals

1. Download this PDF pack and print the following pages, ideally at size A3, either at home or at your local print shop.
2. Print the player pieces, boards and cards on heavy printable card in full colour.
3. Cut out the player pieces, the two boards and the Change Cards.
4. Shuffle the deck of Change Cards and place 8 on each board.
5. Play the game.

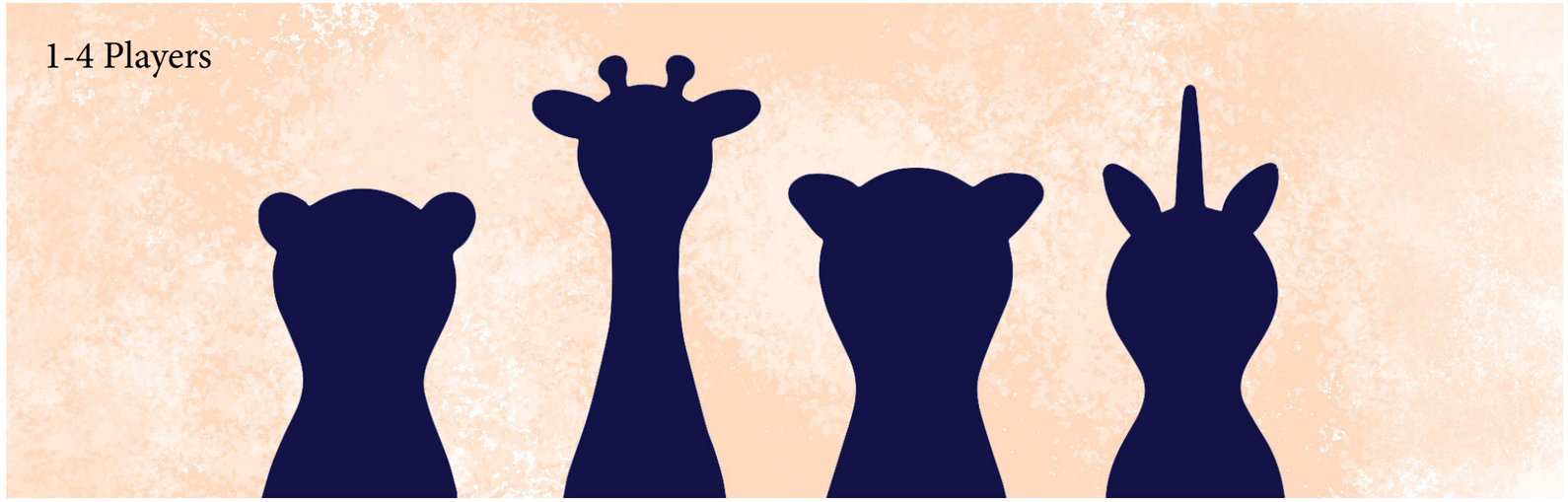
Before you Play

You will need the follwoing items to play the game:

-A six sided die.

-A copper coin (Change Board Coin).

-A silver coin (Player Coin).



How to Play Shadow Animals

Shadow Animals is both a board game and a personal narrative that explores love and loss through the perspective of queer (gay and bisexual) men in the aftermath of the HIV & AIDS crisis. The game is played across two boards, one that leads the player towards "Love", the other towards "Death".

The aim is for each main player to successfully find love and avoid death. Players can compete with both each other and individually playing against their own "Shadow Animal". Each player controls both their main player piece and their shadow player piece (the Shadow Animal). Each main player piece starts on the Love board, the Shadow Animal starts on the Death board. The Shadow Animal always plays on the opposing board to the main player.

When players are asked to switch boards each player piece switches to the opposing board, moving to the same number space on the opposing board, ie if you are on number 12 on the Love board you will switch to number 12 on the Death board and vice versa. You do not switch to the same space as your other player piece.

Players play in order of age, with the oldest player going first. This is because older players will have been disproportionately effected by the AIDS crisis compared to their younger peers.

Each player starts their turn by tossing the silver coin. If it lands on heads you roll the die and move the main player piece. If the silver coin lands on tails, you roll the die and move the shadow player piece.

Players may have to flip a copper coin if they land on a Portal or a Change Card space. This may lead to the player having to change between boards.

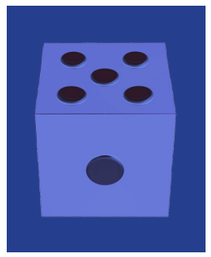
Once a Change Card has been used, the player must discard this card and return it to the bottom of the deck of cards kept close to the board. The player then shuffles the deck and adds the top card from the deck to the bottom of the pile of 8 Change Cards on the board. There must always be 8 cards on the board at any time on each board.

If the Shadow Animal reaches love or death ahead of the main player, the main player piece is stuck on their board and can no longer switch, their fate is already set.

Board Mechanics

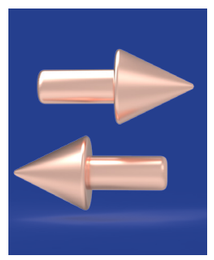
Portal Space

When players land on a Portal Space, they must toss the copper coin twice. If the coin lands on two opposing faces, i.e. heads then tails or tails then heads, the player pieces must switch boards.



Shadow Dice Space

When players land on a Shadow Dice Space. They will be required to imediately re-roll the die. This space inverts the value of the die. So if you roll a 1 you must move back 1 space, if you roll a 2 you need to move back 2 paces and so on. However if you roll a 6, your main and shadow player must switch boards.



Change Card Space

When players land on a Change Card Space, they must pick up a Change Card from the pile on the corrisponding board. These cards often create challenges that might end in your two player pieces switching boards or alternatley require the player to roll a shadow dice.

LOVE

SHADOW ANIMALS

Start

CHANGE

Player 1: The Bear

Main Player Piece

Please Cut Out

Shadow Player Piece

Please Cut Out

Player 2: The Pig

Main Player Piece

Please Cut Out

Shadow Player Piece

Please Cut Out

Player 3: The Giraffe

Main Player Piece
Please Cut Out

Shadow Player Piece
Please Cut Out

Player 4: The Unicorn

Main Player Piece
Please Cut Out

Shadow Player Piece
Please Cut Out

CHANGE

Your friend convinces you not to get tested, her intuition tells her that you are worrying unnecessarily.

Roll a shadow die to see your fate.

SHADOW ANIMALS

CHANGE

You hear someone shouting "Dirty fucking queer!" You turn around to see a group of teens running towards you.

Roll a shadow die to see your fate.

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CHANGE

You watch a TV show full of gay jokes with your family. They laugh hysterically at every word.

Roll a shadow die to see your fate.

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CHANGE

Your drink is spiked while dancing with your friends at a club. You wake up in a strange room.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

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CHANGE

You meet a guy who threatens to kill you if you leave him. He keeps you locked in his flat and refuses to let you go for three days.

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CHANGE

Your new boyfriend tries to push you into prostitution and porn. Thinking it might be a good way to make some extra cash.

Roll a shadow die to see your fate.

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CHANGE

You meet up with an ex, he tells you how happy he his in his new relationship with a personal trainer.

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CHANGE

You go to an exercise class. Afterwards the instructor tells you "people like you should stay at home."

Roll a shadow die to see your fate.

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CHANGE

You find out your current boyfriend has been cheating on you.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

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You drop your travel card in a toilet and a much older man picks it up. He refuses to give it back unless you help him out.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

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CHANGE

You try to break up with your sexually abusive boyfriend. He threatens to kill himself if you do.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

SHADOW ANIMALS

CHANGE

You enter a supportive and functional relationship.

You can use this card to change boards at any time.

This card can only be used once.

SHADOW ANIMALS

CHANGE

You enter an emotionally abusive relationship. You are pressured into unprotected sex.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

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CHANGE

After a night of drinking and flirting, you end up in bed with your straight friend's fiancé.

Flip the Change Board Coin if you get tails, you player pieces change boards.

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CHANGE

You take MDMA for the first time and wake up naked next to a strange man.

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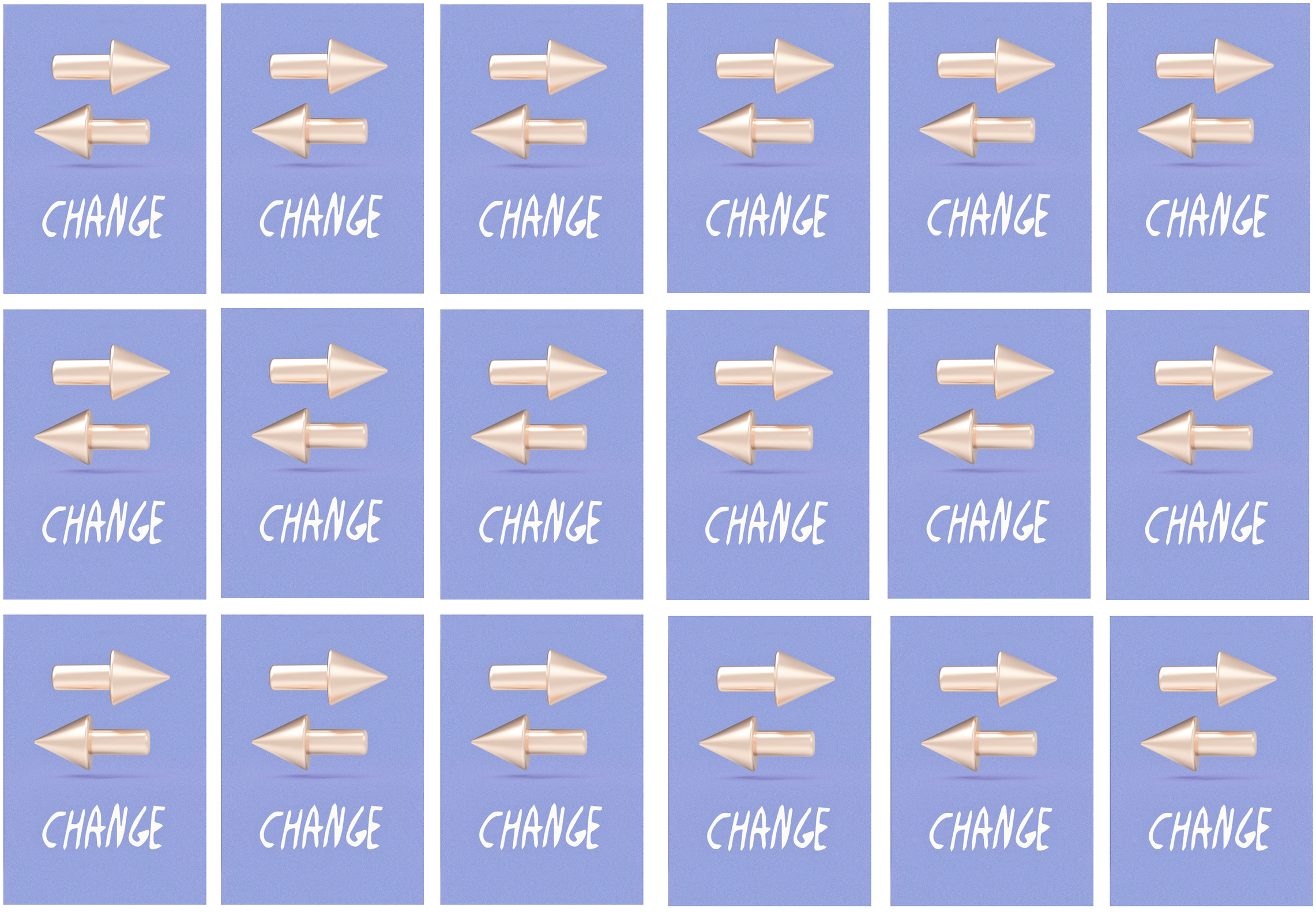
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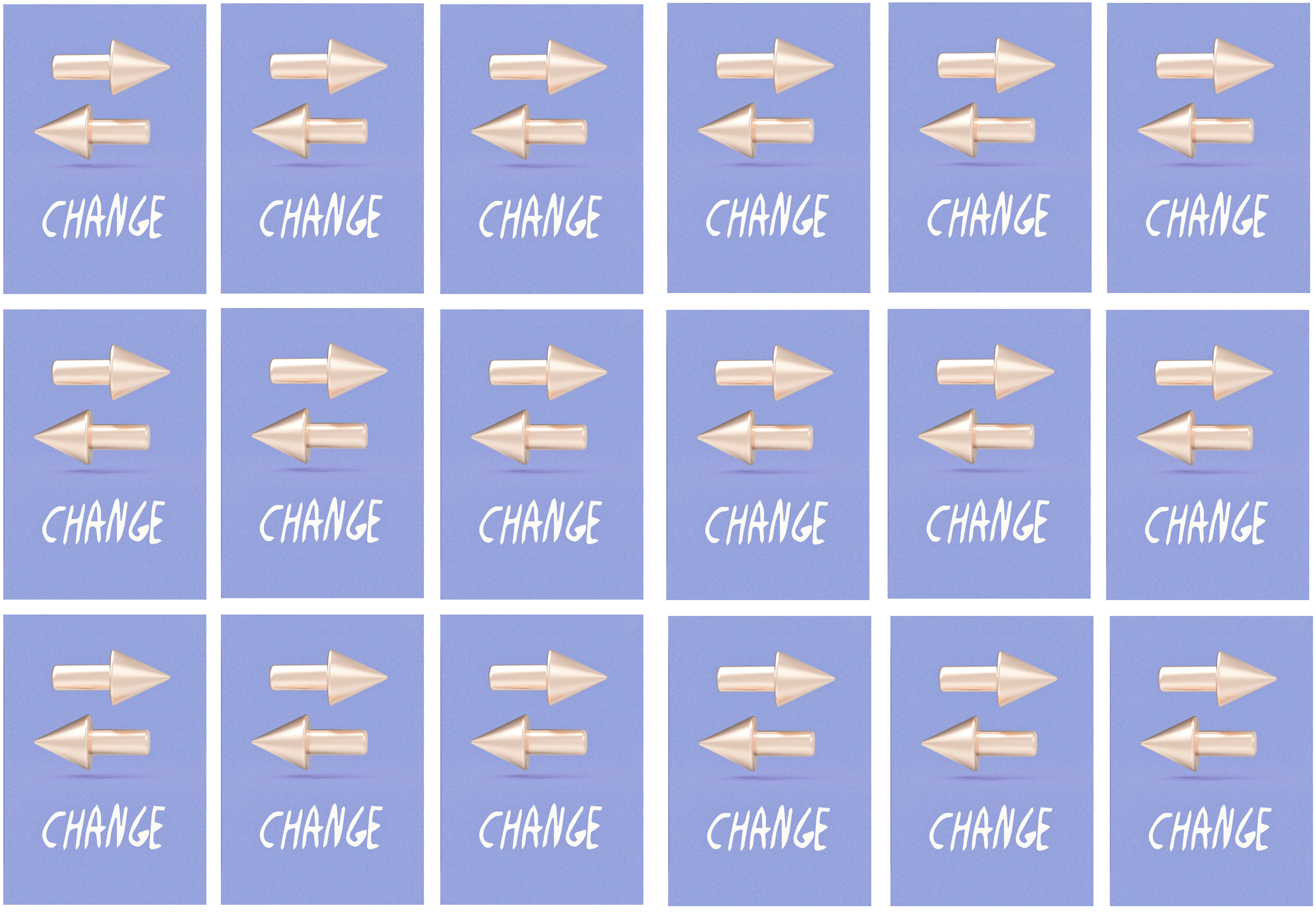
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