



Symbols of Death: [The Emotionalisation of Graphic Symbols].

We invite you to submit work for an exhibition to take place at the DEATH x DESIGN x CULTURE: RADICAL RE-IMAGININGS FOR THE END OF LIFE, conference, 4-6 September 2024, at Falmouth University, UK.

The conference seeks to critically reflect on the role of design as it relates to death, dying, and disposal at individual, community, and broader cultural levels, and to suggest radical alternatives for the future.

Background to the project

Initiated after a conversation following the massacre at Utøya, MOTH reflected upon the lack of suitable visual symbols used to articulate universal sympathy in the context of death and bereavement. Most of the social media messages posted in response to the massacre used the ❤️. This prompted inspiring questions about the lack of appropriate and meaningful visual signifiers of mortality and highlighted our inability to discuss the complexities of death as freely as we discuss love.

Brief

To create a collective digital vocabulary of pictorial signs which articulate and communicate the nuances of death, dying and grief. Utilising the emotionalisation of graphic symbols to express our inner world of feelings to the outside world.

We welcome a diverse range of submissions which communicate both personal grief as well as collective solidarity and empathy in our social-cultural relationships.

Lexicons and systems of pictorial signs *represent democratisation of knowledge through [cultural] participation*¹. Overcoming linguistic barriers and reflecting divergent socio-cultural influences which are constantly being re-negotiated. Helping us to navigate space and each other. Functioning or engaging as universal forms of communication [rejecting or reinforcing stereotypes?]. Or as personal expressions and poetic forms of visual language.

Let's re-imagine how we talk about death, dying and grief in the digital realm.

Deliverables:

To contribute please email a vector EPS graphic that fits within a 100mm square, using only one colour (black).

+ Details of how you want your credit to read.

Deadline Friday 31 May 2024. Email file to: moth@falmouth.ac.uk

DEATH x DESIGN x CULTURE: RADICAL RE-IMAGININGS FOR THE END OF LIFE. Partners: Moth and The Department of Graphic Design, Falmouth University (UK), and the Death and Culture Network, University of York (UK); in partnership with the Stamps School of Art & Design, University of Michigan (USA), and the Glasgow End of Life Studies Group, University of Glasgow (UK).

Moth: Design for Life & Death is a research project which through the discipline of Graphic Design, explores visual language associated with death and end-of-life experiences. Ashley Rudolph & Nicola Salkeld

Professors Bruce and Stephanie Tharp, Industrial designers, teaching and working in the field of discursive design. [Discursive Design Critical, Speculative, and Alternative Things. Bruce M. Tharp & Stephanie M. Tharp. 2022. The MIT Press].

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^[1]Sander. G. (2014) *Otto Neurath. Eine politische Biographie.* Wien/Vienna: Zsolnay]