

An exploration of shared experiences of grief through the perspective of relational aesthetics

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Abstract

Purpose: Exploring the intersection of grief and art through the perspective of relational aesthetics.

Method : Face to face interviews were conducted to collect objects of grief(Thompson, 2019) that individuals no longer wanted but found trouble in disposing.



Aim: The aim of the interviews was to gain nuanced insights and to cultivate a better understanding of how grief is experienced and processed by different individuals.

The findings gathered serves to inform and enhance the artwork.

Key Concepts

Relational Aesthetics



Bourriaud (1998) defines relational aesthetics as an art form centered around "the sphere of interhuman relations" (p. 43), viewing art as a "state of encounter" (p. 18) that fosters sociability (p. 16).



Martin (2007) critiques this concept, summarizing relational aesthetics as "art as a form of social exchange"(p. 370).

Conclusion

- This project reinforces the capacity of art to act as a catalyst for emotional communication and understanding.
- **A place to put it all down (2024)** highlights how art can foster connections to allow participants and viewers alike to reflect on and perhaps reimagine their relationships with loss, memory, and identity in a shared and interpretive space



Methodology

1) The main technique used to create the installation is "shadow art".



2) The donated objects were bounded to styrofoam blocks and pedestals to create deconstructed structures.

3) When light is projected over these abstract forms, human-like shadows are being casted onto the walls.

4) By adjusting the distance of objects from the light source, vice versa, the size of shadows can be manipulated to look larger than the average human.

