



Competition


Design a Commemorative Ritual for Time of Death

Rituals have formed a part of human culture for tens of thousands of years. But what is a ritual? A ritual, according to the encyclopedia, is a formalised, predetermined set of symbolic actions. These are usually performed in a particular environment at regular, recurring intervals, and might include such elements as reciting, singing, group processions, repetitive dance, manipulation of sacred objects, etc. The general purpose of ritual is to create a sense of meaning and security, evoke spiritual or emotional responses from participants, and/or engage a group of people in unified action to strengthen their communal bonds.

In many settings, the death of a person has been commemorated by the lighting of a candle. However, the lighting of candles in health care settings is now increasingly restricted for safety reasons. When a death can no longer be commemorated by an established ritual, a void is left for friends, relatives and those working in end-of-life care.

This is why researchers, clinicians and faculty affiliated with the Research and Development Unit of Stockholms Sjukhem, the Medical Management Centre at Karolinska Institutet, Umeå University Department of Nursing, the Experience Design Group at Konstfack, and the Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship (www.sses.se) have joined forces to initiate this competition.

We invite you to design an appropriate ritual to commemorate the occasion of death in a health care setting. Proposals can combine any of the artistic, craft and design disciplines, and be informed by other disciplines, but the focus should be on providing a ritual that is appropriate for the specific experiential context of the end of life. The proposal should be one that would be possible to implement in a wide variety of health care practice settings – in home environments as well as in inpatient care – for individuals with different backgrounds, but may otherwise take any form.



The competition is open to all students at Konstfack and Karolinska Institutet. Proposals – comprising a written project overview and motivation for the design, including its aim and the methods used (no more than 2 A4 pages) as well as a detailed visual representation of the ritual(s) – should be submitted in both hard and digital (CD/web site) form by 17.00 (5 pm) on February 29, 2012 in a package marked *Competition: Design a Commemorative Ritual for Time of Death* for the attention of Rolf Hughes, the Experience Design Group, at Konstfack's Reception. Entries should be written in English or Swedish. The judging panel will comprise experts from the fields of both palliative care and experience design.

Twenty thousand Swedish kronor will be awarded to the winning entrant or entrants, at the judge's discretion, at the 2nd Swedish National Conference in Palliative Care (March 13-14, 2012). The competition organisers reserve the right to abstain from awarding prizes if proposals deemed suitable are lacking.

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