

No One Wants to Die Alone

Artist's Statement

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Before reading this, I implore you to watch the animation all the way through.

For most people, the fear of death is rather innate. From the time we are children, we fear the boogeyman in the closet or under the bed, get wobbly at the knees when we reach the edge of a precipice or get in front of a crowd to speak for the first time. And when we are old enough to comprehend death, actual death, we begin to grow anxious and scared of it coming for us. There is no stopping death- it is a guarantee for everyone and everything and comes in many different forms.

In this, my goal was to demonstrate two distinctly different reactions around the knowledge of oneself dying. The cracks upon the people's bodies are visualisations of death and dying. The first follows an *individualistic ontology*, or individual-centric worldview, wherein the person is solely focused on themselves and extending their life, regardless of the cost. They are seen taking colour from the world and applying it to themselves to haphazardly cover up their cracks, to 'heal' themselves and stave off death. However, this is not a permanent solution. When the colour is taken from the world, placed upon their body, that colour fades away from the world. Eventually, the cracks spread more, and so they must take more from the world around them to fix the cracks as they continue to form. This demonstrates that death will come eventually, regardless of what we may do to avoid it. The colours in the world here, and the fact they fade away, are visualisations of the give-and-take that happens when lives are artificially extended, even if we may not see those direct effects.

The second half is a visualisation of a *relational ontology*, where the circumstance starts out rather the same, with cracks forming on the main individual, indicating their death. They begin to panic, much like the first, but their friend pulls them out of that state. They are reassuring them that all will be okay, and the hug representing that they were there for them. During this hug, the person's cracks do not go away nor are they covered- but rather, filled in with the colour of their friends. In this scenario, there was no 'healing' or 'fixing' the cracks, but rather an acceptance towards the fact that death was coming, and the colours formed as a visualization of the support from those we love, and that love us as we go through our toughest time, the end of our lives.

What did you think this animation was about? How did it make you feel? What are your thoughts following this? If you feel so inclined to share, here is a link to an open-ended form to share your thoughts.

