

the Dreamers

Life, death and dreams

ARTIST

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What do people who are diagnosed with a life-limiting illness think of life? Of death? How do they want to die? What gives them joy? Have they had dreams or visions about death, or the hereafter?

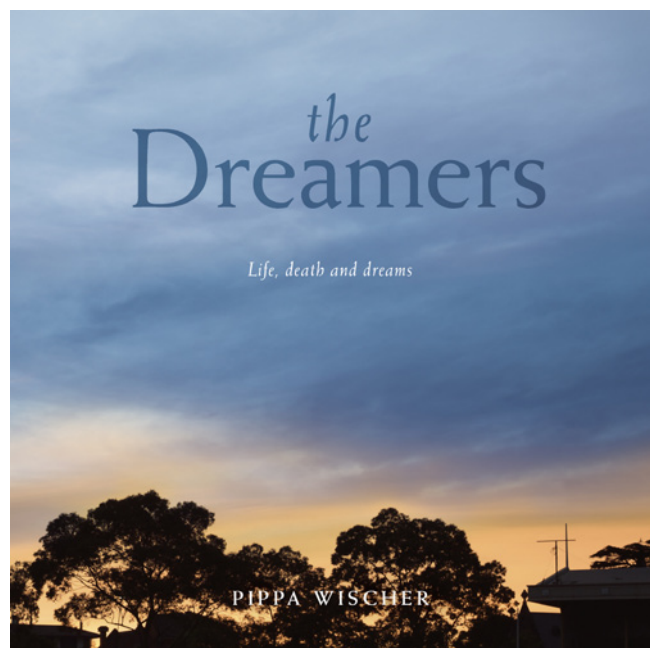
Forty people who are in palliative care were asked questions about life, dreams and dying. Photographed while they answered these intimate and complex questions, *The Dreamers* exhibition reveals answers to the deeper questions of life, told in their words, by those living until they die.

EXHIBITION MATERIAL

images: 40 x mounted digital prints, 60 x 60cm

text: 40 x mounted digital prints, 23 x 23cm

book: to accompany the exhibition



THE BOOK WAS LAUNCHED 31ST JULY 2014

RESPONSE TO THE BOOK;

'Incredible job with The Dreamers! It made me laugh and it made me cry; it will really start many conversations.'

Dr Brian Le, Unit Head, Department of Palliative Care,
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine (RMH/WH)
The University of Melbourne

'It is a really beautiful book – no sense of doom and gloom, just a real sense of love and acceptance.'

Catherine Tobin, Director, Condor Group Pty Ltd

'Thank you for connecting us to humanity.'

Lore Singer, Nurse

'The photographs are gorgeous and the individual personalities shine through their stories.'

Karen Raabe, Project Officer, Gippsland Region Palliative Care Consortium



I'm trying to find a bit of normality in my life. Unfortunately, it's jumped the fence, and now I have to mourn the joy of being normal, of not being cancer. People talk about fighting, being positive, and I think it's a delusion. I didn't want to die for another thirty years, but I have to accept that I am and do that with some dignity. The hardest part is the kids because they don't get it yet, so I have to work on that now.

Tania 2 months before dying



I didn't realize that life is for living. I was forever busy. I started as an office boy and ended up managing director but that didn't come without a cost. I was not a terribly emotional fellow. I didn't think I was, but when this happened, they all come flooding out. I've got to make the most of it. You tend to get on with your life, not knowing how much there is.

Neville 2 months before dying



I found myself thinking incredibly differently. I found myself saying, 'I wonder if I'll actually be alive next Wednesday?' I'd been given a ticket to ride, but I haven't got my boarding pass yet and so it was terrifying. You suddenly realize that life doesn't have to be that serious. So there are discoveries you make along the way. But that's life.

Brian *7 days before dying*



I do believe we come back. There is no end, even in death. I'm French; I love my cheese! When I was in hospital I told them 'No way I'm going to die before I have a lasagna!' Simple things keep me going. I always wanted to die on a sunny afternoon against a tree. I want to die in the bush. I want to die peacefully, and I want to die knowing I'm dying. For me that's important, being able to live your death.

Lucette *6 weeks before dying*