

Ruins For Those We Lost

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These artworks seek to solidify the remnant qualities of a person who has died. In small and intimate individual gestures, these artworks are easily made at home and can be kept close.

These instructions outline how to make ruins and preserve a pathway for revisiting those we have lost.

How To Use These Instructions:

These artworks can be made by anyone, anywhere, at any time, over any length of time unless otherwise specified by a rule. You do not need permission from the artist to create this artwork.

These instructions can serve as merely a thought experiment. If you do not intend to make these ruins you may read through all steps and parts without pause. If you plan to create these ruins you must do each step in order, and you must finish the previous step before reading the next. You may not read through the entirety of the directions before deciding to make the ruin.

Any way you understand these instructions is the correct way. You may not consult the creator of these artworks for clarity.

A Collecting Ruin

Rule: This ruin must be made by only one person each time it is constructed. It may not be made in collaboration with anything but the maker's own memory and/or records.

Part 1

1. Take your time, claim it, and know it is yours. For now, you are here and you have this.
2. Try to calm your mind and center your thoughts on the person who has died.
3. Note what you remember about them. If you did not know this person, note what you know about them, have heard about them, how they have made you feel and how they are important to you. Record your memories and thoughts in any way that feels natural. Some ways to do this are voice recording, writing, drawing, video recording, finding the artifacts, possessions and photographs left of that person. There is no wrong way to do this.
4. This task may be long. You may need to take breaks. Take your time. Repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 as often as necessary until you feel satisfied that your memories are a whole representation of the person as you knew them.

Part 2

1. Collect all the memories and/or thoughts you recorded. If can fit in front of you, arrange them in front of you so that each is visible.
2. Review each item. Remember and feel them again.
3. Arrange each memory and/or thought among the others in a system that is logical to you. This system may be the order in which you remembered, chronological order by date they originally occurred, thematic groupings, or any other way that reflects either your memory of the person or the person's own sensibilities.
4. Preserve the memories and/or thoughts in the order that you have devised within in container that is best suited to the method you chose for recording.
5. Keep this, the contained ruin of the person who has died as a way of revisiting and memorializing them.

A Living Ruin

1. Take a moment to think of a person who was close to you who has died.
2. Think of a plant they loved. It may be a plant they cared for, or a plant they liked to eat, or a plant they liked the smell of. It may be any plant at all that this person loved in any way.
3. Research how to grow this plant. Note especially the type of soil it needs to live in, the amount of sun it needs and the type of climate.
4. If the place you live in cannot accommodate any of the details specified in step 3 repeat steps 2 and 3 with a new plant until you find one that suits all the criteria.
5. Get seeds or seedlings to grow this plant.
6. Remember a place this person loved that has the same type of soil needed for the plant to grow, go to that place or a similar place and collect enough soil for the plant to grow in.
7. Fertilize the soil so it can easily sustain the plant.
8. Plant the seed or seedlings of the plant they loved into the soil from a place they loved.
9. Care for it.

Rule: if the plant does not survive this ruin may be remade.

A Loving Ruin

1. Think about the person who has died.
2. Remember the ways they showed their love for you. Take note of these memories in any way that feels comfortable for you.
3. Love yourself in these ways.

