

Project Brief

In memory of doctors and nurses that lost their lives to suicide.

Combining a physical and digital space to memorialize and commemorate those that dedicated their lives to healing others.

Creating a memorial space that allows family and loved ones to submit names of doctors, nurses, and medical students that lost their lives to suicide. The memorial lives in the physical and digital space, allowing for greater volume of people to share experiences and confide amongst one another. Ultimately, the goal is to create a place to start counting and recognizing the deaths, spread awareness, and offer those left behind a meaningful place to go in their process of healing.

Each lantern holds a candle, representing someone that committed suicide. It starts with one, my own story, that grows as others are invited to submit a name and the option of sharing a story. The submission is completed through a designed website, an online memorial, where people can view the installation, their own vessel, and other people's stories.

A space is imagined for these lanterns to grow in multitude, but they are still portable. Submissions create a chance to start recording and then visualizing the number of deaths, with an option of anonymity. Each year, on a decided date, the candles in each lantern light up for a night to remember, feel grief, and hope.

My personal narrative drives the emotional value of this project and provides a reason for people to submit names, come together, and get a chance to feel grief collectively.

01	02	03
Repeatable ceramic vessels of abstracted forms combining vagueness with intent	Website design that relates to and connects with the memorial installation	Using storytelling and ritual to create points-of-access, curiosity, and interaction

Questions

What emotions will the design of the vessels evoke?
How will the physical and digital space work alongside the vessels?
How will the project be long-lasting and make a change in the systemic issue?
Do people care enough to contribute and view this type of memorial?

**"Ring the bells that still can ring/Forget your perfect offering/There is a crack
in everything/That's how the light gets in."
- Leonard Cohen**

Criteria

User and Location

Users are family and loved ones of departed doctors, nurses, and medical students. The physical memorial is in an outdoor area in Canada. Each vessel is placed across the space creating voids and plenty of space to walk through.

Functionality

The memorial allows users a place to take the steps in remembering, healing, and take part of an action to spread awareness. A sense of meaning, purpose, and recognition is created for the person that healed many other people.

Material

The vessels are ceramic, suggesting fragility... if broken, however, they can be repaired to demonstrate their resilience.



Systems and Manufacturing

Each lantern is made by me, showing users the sincerity in the project and offering more reason to participate. The personal narrative is the strongest conviction. The website allows for another form of memorial that anyone can access, while still connecting to the physical.

Sustainability

The memorial works with the outdoor space it is in. Landscape design is needed to keep people on certain paths with lessened obstruction of the land. The material is mainly unglazed ceramic, avoiding long-term harm of the environment, especially if broken.

Visual Language

Abstracted but minimal elements of (flowers and anatomical hearts) as vessels are intended to evoke emotion and allow users to attribute their own meanings. Repetition of the lanterns is important to communicate the number of deaths, but each lantern, modeled after the same shape, is made slightly different, like the healthcare professional or student they represent.

40%	400	1 in 3
More of male physicians die by suicide than non-physicians.	Estimated physician suicides in the US.	Physicians and residents screen for depression in 2018.