



**Jessica Charlesworth presents The MeMo Organization in New York during ICFF at WantedDesign May 17 - 20**

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### **The MeMo Organization**

#### **Could death really be so gentle with the help of technology?**

The Latin phrase memento mori, meaning, “remember you will die”, denotes objects that remind us of our mortality. What alternative memento mori practices and rituals might be created in light of current developments in technology and science?

Cloaked in the fictional identity of The MeMo Organization, Jessica presents a vitrine filled with seven designed objects each accompanied by a short story that explores a range of poetic rituals and attitudes towards death and mourning in relation to emerging developments in science, philosophy and technology.

The research ranges over a wide field, including the relatively recent medicalization and banishment of death and mourning from public experience, the emergence of palliative and hospice care, the funeral industry and the green burial movement, the impact of new digital and biological technologies, and a growing desire for increased meaning in the service of a dying self. She distills her research into a collection of tools that facilitate a series of intimate narratives voiced by characters struggling in various ways with mortality. The characters remain anonymous in these short stories where love and loss are recurring motifs.

<http://me-mo.co/>

Concept, modelmaking, writing and illustrations by JESSICA CHARLESWORTH

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Jessica is a speculative designer with experience working for both public and private sector organisations to explore the future implications of their field. She explores ways of using design to unravel and provoke rich interactions between people, technology, products and services. Charlesworth's work addresses fundamental questions about society's institutions, ambitions and behaviors, exploring new possibilities and alternative futures. In contrast to commercial industrial design where new products are developed for immediate consumption, Jessica approaches design as a tool for discussion and provocation bringing big issues, and their impacts on our messy everyday lives, into focus. Since graduating from the Design Interactions at the Royal College of Art, she has run her own practice conducting speculative design projects, often collaborating with scientists, futurists, designers and academics including think tanks Foresight (UK) and the Institute for the Future (US). With this interdisciplinary approach she explores alternative futures that new technologies and science may hold. She has exhibited at MAKVienna, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Ace Museum in Los Angeles and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Her work is held in the permanent collection of MAKVienna.

MeMo Identity & booklet by ROMAIN ANDRE

[www.romainandre.com](http://www.romainandre.com)

Presented by Michael Graham of BALLOON CONTEMPORARY

[www.ballooncontemporary.com](http://www.ballooncontemporary.com)

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**MeMo at Wanted Design May 17 - 20**

**269 11th Avenue, New York, NY, 10001**

**Saturday May 18th to Monday May 20th 2013 from 10am - 7pm**

<http://me-mo.co/>