Hello!

My name is Ondine Geary. I am a Boulder-based dance artist. In the last two years, my life and creative work have been profoundly changed by grief. I lost my brother suddenly and unexpectedly in 2017. And a year later, in 2018, I lost my father. In an attempt to process and make some sense of myself and my world in this new configuration, I’ve turned to dance and related art forms. My current project, Radius of Transmission, excavates these losses and attempts to understand or communicate the strangeness of being in grief.

One component of the three-part project is an installation I’m co-creating with other community members who also have a relationship with grief. The installation brings together in one space our individual experiences of grief and considers the ways our grief is stored, carried and compartmentalized. I’m seeking additional members of the community willing to engage in this project with me. If you’re interested, please read on! And if you’re still interested, please contact me at ondine.geary@colorado.edu or 901.490.5324.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration,

Ondine Geary
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Project details:

Who are you hoping will participate?
Boulder county residents whose lives have been shaped by grief.

Why do you want to “bring together” our “individual experiences of grief”? 
My grief is with me always, and I'm always tending to it, but not always in ways that are visible or legible to others. And sometimes, when I’m in a crowded public space, I’m struck by an awareness that we are likely all doing this, that this behind-the-scenes tending might be happening for everyone around me. With this awareness, I feel like grief unites me with others—as a core human experience, rather than being something that isolates me or sets me apart. This idea makes me feel less lonely. Maybe it can do the same for others.

How are you hoping to achieve this?
I’m looking to collect objects-of-grief from 40 community members (one person for every year of my brother’s life). This object can be anything that belonged to the loved one or that represents the loved one in some way that’s meaningful to you. Here’s something I wrote about “objects-of-grief” that might explain more of what I mean:

> When someone dies, we often fill the cratered spaces that remain with the objects they left behind. Anxious to hold onto some piece of that person, their objects become a portal, a proxy, an inscrutable universe of alternate access. Their objects act as an anchor, holding some small part of them here, while the rest of them inevitably and undeniably recedes.

> These objects get tucked into our closets, perched on our shelves, or carried along in the bottom of our jacket pockets. To most, these objects are unremarkable. Few know the world of memory and affect attached to the small wooden butterfly, the beat-up metal case, or the old sweatshirt spotted with paint.

> Like these objects, our grief also gets tucked away into the dark corners and private recesses of our lives. We return to work and move through our day with seeming ease, just like normal. But one hand remains tucked in that pocket, where we silently thumb our grief all day long, mindlessly turning it over, feeling grief’s sharp edges scrape against our fingertips.

What will happen with these objects?
The site of the instillation is a storage unit (an unconventional but perfect place for this subject matter.) Each object will be placed inside its own cardboard box, which will be stacked in rows inside the storage unit. The boxes will have an LED light inside and a small hole so that visitors to the installation can peer inside and see the object. Contributors of objects will be invited to record a message about their object (or the person connected to the object), which visitors to the installation can listen to on an old telephone we’ve modified using interactive technology.

When do I loan you the object? How long will you keep it?
I will connect with you to collect your object in late July or early August. I will return your object to you when the installation closes in mid-September. You can reach me by email, phone or text through ondine.geary@colorado.edu or 901.490.5324.

Who will the visitors be? Is there a fee for attending the installation?
The visitors will likely be other participants and community members, and the installation is intended to be an experience-for-one. There is no fee. This event is free to the community.

**How do visitors attend the installation?**
Anyone interested in visiting the installation will make an appointment through the project’s website, [www.radius.dance](http://www.radius.dance), by clicking the button “Attend Part I”.

**Is there anyone that shouldn’t participate or come to the installation?**
I think it’s important for everyone who participates or attends to know that this project deals with grief, which can be triggering or difficult.

**How will the objects be protected?**
The storage unit will remain locked and only opened for visitors. Visitors must make an online appointment to attend, so I will have a record and contact information for all visitors. I feel confident that the people drawn to this experience will be respectful and trustworthy. However, since this is designed as an experience-for-one (I will be outside of the storage unit while they are inside of it), visitors will be in the space alone. Therefore, it might be wise to contribute objects that have only personal value, not object/retail value.

**Can you tell me more about the whole project and the other parts?**
Sure. Radius of Transmission is a multidisciplinary, site-specific exploration of grief in three parts. It translates the strangeness of being-in-grief into new contexts, one that uses live performance, technology and installation to similarly dislodge audience members from normative states of experience.

- (objects): Part I is an interactive installation in a storage unit, co-created with members of the community, that explores our need to stay tethered to the loved ones we’ve lost.
- (absent): Part II is a four-mile, site-specific drive that uses both the metaphor and means of radio technology to insist that, in grief, empty space is not nothing.
- (abraded): Part III is a dance that shifts the frame from “those gone” to “those who go on” and proclaims grief as inextricably linked to living.

**Can I attend Parts II & III? How do I contact you?**
Absolutely. Ticketing info can be found on the project’s website, [www.radius.dance](http://www.radius.dance). Email me at ondine.geary@colorado.edu or 901.490.5324. You can also check out my website at [www.ondine.dance](http://www.ondine.dance). And you can access details about this specific project at [www.radius.dance](http://www.radius.dance)

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