

Abstrakt (EN)

Thanatoarchitecture: Rehearsing Mortality is an artistic research project investigating the impact of architectural spaces, and their material and spatial organisation, on the embodied experience of illness and the process of dying. Driven by a personal encounter with existential anxiety surrounding death and dying, the project explores how shifts in perception and embodied experience of space occur during periods of dysfunction.

Drawing on disciplines including phenomenology, medicine, medical humanities, architectural theory, proxemics, anthropology and thanatology, the study combines theoretical exploration with practical projects to examine how architecture shapes our relationship with mortality. The thesis interweaves three interconnected layers — personal experiences, autoethnographic reflections and academic research — to create a complex, multi-layered narrative.

The practical component comprises several key elements: a three-channel sculptural video installation entitled *Still Point*; a two-channel video work called *Choreography of Care*; an object-furniture piece inviting the viewer to rest and observe; a copper belt engraved with a song translation; and a spatial silk-screen installation. These components form the basis of an exhibition that emphasises the viewer's embodied experience of the exhibition space as being central to their understanding of the artwork.

Through this interdisciplinary approach, the research aims to expand our knowledge and broaden anthropological reflections on the role of architecture in shaping our perceptions and experiences of illness, dying and mortality.