



ARTS ILLUSTRATED

Death by Wool

Death by Caption

Death by Freezing

Death by 3D

Death by Candlewax

Death by Caption

Death by Overdose

Death by Xerox

Death by Sharpener

Death by Stencil

Death by Dental Floss

Death by Teabag

Death by Fire





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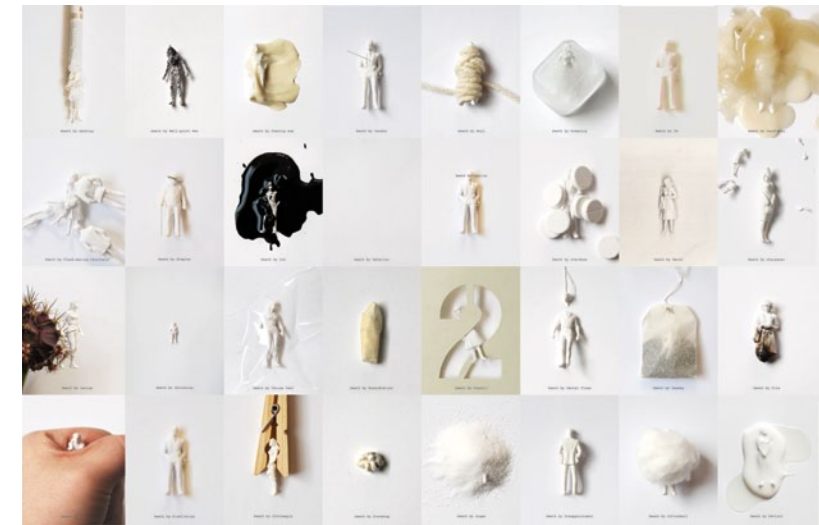
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Cover Artist - Tara Kelton



'Death By...' is a project Tara initiated while she was at Yale. 'I found these small plastic architectural figures in a New Haven art store, and amused myself by destroying one of them in a new way, every day, for a period of three months,' she says. This resulted in a series of images of these tiny 'people' dying in immediate ways ranging from being sharpened in a sharpener, taken apart with pliers, to the more metaphorical like 'disappointment', and 'deletion', and elaborate ones, like 'electrocution' and 'freezing'. This was a quick and spontaneous process for Tara, and a lot of the 'ways to die' ended up being things that she found around in her apartment. She recalls 'When I cooked one of the figures on the stove, tiny bits of plastic flew up in the air and straight into my nose...it was almost death by inhalation, but this time for me and not the figurine!'

For the cover of this issue on Humour, Tara chose 32 images from the original series of 95. 'I was able to quickly narrow it down to my favourite 32, but I always find the act of sequencing quite daunting and I can be a bit obsessively compulsive about trying every possible option before

deciding. I thought about how many possibilities there must be mathematically.' Tara actually asked a mathematician friend and when she learnt that there are approximately 260-billion-trillion-trillion possible ways to combine the 32 images (that's 26 plus 35 zeroes), she was hoping for us to give her the time to try each of those. But when that was not possible, she just used instinct and arranged them quite quickly, visually.

The size of the figure within the frame is kept consistent across the series. She consciously uses a limited and neutral palette. While most of the 'deaths' were analogue, they were broken up with some digital gestures like 'Death by Pixelation', 'Death by Blur', and 'Death by Caption'.

'Death By...' seems quite removed from the rest of Tara's practice, but on a closer inspection many parallels are found, like the incorporation of both the analogue and the digital, and blurring the line between humour and darkness, something that can be observed throughout her work.

Conceptualisation of the cover and text above by Rahul Kumar.



Death by Smoking



Death by Ball-point Pen



Death by Chewing Gum



Death by Voodoo



Death by Flesh-eating Cannibals



Death by Stapler



Death by Ink



Death by Deletion



Death by Cactus



Death by Shrinking



Death by Vacuum Seal



Death by Mummification



Death by Glass



Death by Pixellation



Death by Clothespin



Death by Stovetop