

Bethany Panhorst

In contemporary society, a prevalent perspective on death is avoidance and denial. In these modeled hanging clay portraits of my middle-aged parents, I acknowledge the inevitability of their decline and death. I further wonder at the mystery surrounding death. There is a mysterious silence communicated in the portraits' closed eyes. The blended porcelain's grey color suggests death. Yet, there is a peaceful expression in the relaxed faces. Are the faces really dead or are they only sleeping? From the perspective of the Christian faith, while death is a reality, the bitter sting of death has been removed. Death can be compared to sleep because it is not final. For the person who trusts Christ, there is a future transformation of the body from the perishable into the imperishable.