

## Typography II

### THE LIVING EPITAPH

#### Introduction

*An epitaph is an inscription upon a tomb or gravestone; a brief composition characterizing the deceased, recognizing those specific, distinguishing traits that make him or her unique.*

Epitaphs evoke images of the departed soul. One has opportunity to express his or her personality, and record for posterity what was important. The most common epitaphs are short, poetic statements of faith, remembrance and hope, but your “living” epitaph should be reflective of who you are right now, or who you would like to become some day. Dry wit, profundity, and unquity (make up your own word if you like...) are welcome!

#### Process

You will design three 8.5 x 14" type compositions, to be printed on 11 x 17" paper. Each piece will be as completely different from the previous as possible.

The first solution must be completely drawn or written by hand. You may base your composition on typography, but it must be created or rendered by hand. Use ink, colored pencil (if you're as cool as Ed Fella), marker, or whatever makes the most sense for the nature of what you're saying. You may scan parts and compose/combine them in the digital environment, but you may not use any digital markmaking. Be extravagant and extraordinary!

The second solution must be completely typographic and vector based. Make Illustrator or InDesign really work for you. You may incorporate graphic elements such as lines, shapes, patterns, etc... but every element must be completely black on a white background (or vice versa). Really consider the figure ground (positive/negative form) relationships, and make a dynamic or austere composition.

The third solution must be a three dimensional installation that has been photographed. Your letterforms need not specifically be built, carved, molded, etc... but they must be integrated into some well-considered physical space that you can photograph. Consider light projection, shadows, and the surfaces and background (both real and implied) that we see. Build complexity only when it adds to the meaning and depth of your message. Remember Mr Sagmeister's explorations.