



## Near-Death Experiment

A recent study from the University of Kentucky offers one possible theory behind a fiercely defended supernatural experience.

The study, led by neurophysiologist Kevin R. Nelson, sought to better understand Near-Death Experiences (NDE)—events defined as times during a life-threatening episode when a person undergoes an out-of-body experience, sees an intense light or feels a great sense of peace.

Researchers compared 55 people who have experienced the phenomenon with 55 people who have not. Turns out, 60 percent of the NDE-ers also experience REM (rapid eye movement) intrusion—meaning the dream state of sleep often seeps into their waking life. This finding led the docs to conclude that those who have undergone a near-death experience have less distinctly separated borders between sleep and waking life. In essence, those who experience NDE and REM intrusion get their mental wires crossed when traversing into consciousness.

Not wanting to discount the validity of an individual's otherworldly encounters, Dr. Nelson adds the findings are simply a physical examination of the neurological processes involved, and do not negate personal meaning or spiritual dimension to the phenomenon.

—Jessica Ridenour





## New Life For Old Magazines

Got a mountain of magazines at home in need of a trip to the recycling bin? Loath to unload a year's subscription of your favorite glossy at the landfill?

German artist Mareike Gast has created a clever DIY guide to reincarnating old magazines into chic recliners (found online at [mareikegast.de/flowerchair](http://mareikegast.de/flowerchair)). The Netherlands-based Design Academy Eindhoven grad says she found inspiration from "piles of magazines in my room, but also the fascination for the strength of paper."

The chair is made by dipping the edges of a magazine in lacquer and folding each page into the crease, creating individual "flowers." Connect a series of these together and you've got a mod piece of furniture ready for MOCA. The chair may or may not actually be comfortable to sit on, so some creative cushioning may be in order.

Whether or not you decide to make a lounge out of the new and improved glossy WLT, you can rest easy knowing it's made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper.

—Jessica Ridenour

