

Ghost bikes: memorials to road victims blamed for putting people off cycling

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Photograph: Graeme Robertson for *The Guardian*

A recent article in [The Guardian](#) discusses the global phenomena of "Ghost Bikes", sculpturally embellished bicycles that memorialize riders killed in particular urban spaces. A fusion of ancient practices of creating roadside shrines (see [here](#) for a promotional Catholic approach, and [here](#) for a sense of current controversy) and contemporary, urban memorializing gestures (in response to everything from Princess Diana's death to September 11), such bikes draw attention to the power of objects to convey lost personhood and to mark the landscape with cautionary monuments. The article also contains a link to [this site](#), which tracks the phenomenon and plots the locations of such bikes worldwide.