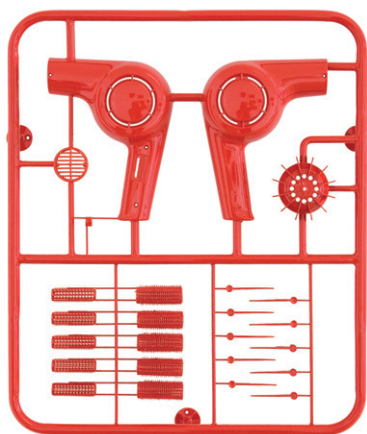


From the Editor

A Strategy for One's Life

Illustrating this month's Spotlight package is **Michael Johansson**, a Sweden-based artist who combines everyday objects in provocative ways, sometimes as if they were model kits.



ABOVE
Engine Bought Separately—Hugin II, 2007
hair dryer, welded metal frame, spray paint
0.6 x 0.75 x 0.1 m

In the July–August issue of this magazine, we published a powerful essay by the celebrated Harvard Business School professor Clayton M. Christensen titled “How Will You Measure Your Life?”

The article came to be after HBR’s editor, Karen Dillon, heard students buzzing about a hugely inspiring talk on the meaning of life and work that Clay had just delivered at the school. She asked him to turn his speech into an article for HBR. Clay wrote eloquently in the piece of the need to create a guiding strategy for one’s life, to find a purpose that transcends ambition’s standard pursuits.

It’s one of the most resonant works we’ve ever published. In the days just after we posted it, hundreds of thousands of people came to hbr.org to read it, and commentators around the world were inspired by Clay’s message. On August 3 David Brooks wrote a column in the *New York Times* urging readers to consider following Clay’s prescription for “what you might call the Well-Planned Life.” The column was the most often e-mailed article in the *Times* that day.

HBR readers are already familiar with Clay’s insightful mind. He has written or coauthored more than a dozen HBR articles—including the seminal 2000 piece “Meeting the Challenge of Disruptive Change”—and seven books, including *The Innovator’s Dilemma* (Harvard Business

Review Press, 1997), *The Innovator’s Solution* (HBRP, 2003), and *Innovation Killers: How Financial Tools Destroy Your Capacity to Do New Things* (HBRP, 2010).

Yet as Clay continues to work on management’s biggest challenges, he is facing a tougher test: his own health. In December he received a diagnosis of follicular lymphoma. He completed chemotherapy in April, and the results have been, in his words, “miraculous”: The tumors appear to have subsided completely. In July, however, he suffered an ischemic stroke. Because of the speed with which he received medical treatment—less than an hour after the stroke occurred—and the diligence he is putting into his rehabilitation, his doctors are encouraged by his enormous progress so far, and a full recovery is expected. We all hope it will be rapid. In the meantime, we’ve decided to keep Clay’s piece free on hbr.org until the end of this month, so that more people can be inspired by his ideas. As one reader commented on our site: “Values and relationships are what ultimately matter, and if we do not pursue a legacy, we will have gone into business and management in vain. Thank you, Clayton!”

Adi Ignatius, Editor in Chief

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