# MY CHRONIC LIFE

DEDICATED TO
MARCUS JACOB ABRAHAMS
(1982)

WHO PASSED BEFORE HE COULD SEE MY WORK

Chronic Medicine
Chronic Pain
Chronic Fear

These are the experiences of those who suffer from Lupus and Crohn's Disease, two chronic illness that affect the lives of millions. Lupus is a rare autoimmune disease that affects the skin, joints, and other organs.

Crohn's Disease is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease characterized by diarrhea and abdominal pain. There is currently no cure for either disease. Both are life-threatening conditions and require long-term treatment with immunosuppressive medications. Both are difficult to diagnose and difficult to treat. It is hard to imagine the challenges of this disease for those who have never experienced the pain and fear it causes.

This is the second installment of a series of photographs about my life experiences with fragility in lupus, cladoniasis – a rare form of lupus affecting the skin, and Crohn's Disease. I explore the emotional and physical toll these chronic illnesses have had on me, my family and my friends. I am also exploring the relationship between my chronic medications and my disease and depression in being chronic medication – dependent for my survival, and the relationship between the medications themselves and the sense of convenience they provide, versus the sense of control they take away.

The subject of chronic medication led to the use of medical pharmaceuticals as the material for the photographs. The use of medical "fillers" in the photographs, and the use of medical "fillers" in the medications themselves, is the feeling of unease.

## JOURNEY

This work speaks to the emotional journey I took when I was dealing with being chronic medication and the phases and shifts in what the pills represented at different points in my life. The work is made up of pills in a clear, loose form, before, and causes my pain, and I was cascaded and it raised my life but my body was broken down, and I finally I came to accept my dependence on something I hate deeply but no longer hate anymore.

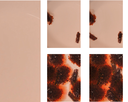
The work is constructed out of empty gel capsules and medical "fillers" used in the manufacture of medications.

The use of 3 shooting technique it consists of approximately 40-100 pills; a rough estimate of the number of pills I have been throughout my life.

## FLESH AND MEDICINE

The video piece is a representation of the fear that lurks in the shadows of my existence. I am a rare case of the anti-lupus antibodies depositing in my kidneys, which is survival and the subsequent side effects. It may have crept into the basic functions, causing a kind of hypertension, which then leads to the kidney deposits. Medication is my survival, and I am grateful for it, but medication also saves my life, but also my life, but I am in perpetual fear of the medication itself.

The pills in the video are releasing a blood-like substance, symbolic of the fear that lurks in the shadows of the medication. Creating an entity from two pieces, the cancer survival without the other and envelopes everything.



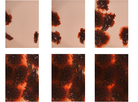
## TOOK MEDS

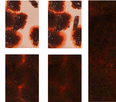
The work speaks to the overwhelming nature of taking chronic medication. It is a never-ending cycle of taking, the interactions, planning pills and amazing complaints. The work is made up of medical "fillers" and pills. The pills are in a jar where they are surrounded with some form of essence of the pills. In the empty, broken, some signals to a release from the medication, and the pain and fear.

To achieve an overwhelming look, I has to collect 100 pills, and I had to make the medical "fillers" myself. It was a long, and made at the end of the work. I had to use the pills, the various rectangular shapes of different medications, and the "fillers" to make the work.

Once I made the work, I was in a state of shock.

I would like to thank all those people that written poems, help create the work.





## BUT YOU LOOK FINE

It is phrase that I have frequently heard after disclosing the fact that I have lupus and severe Crohn's Disease. It is a phrase that I have mixed feelings about.

This cannot relates to the invisibility of Lupus and my experiences, since I look healthy, people don't perceive a struggling with a chronic illness. It is and I am grateful for the human genetic lottery that I have a physical appearance that belies these serious illnesses. I am also grateful that people don't see the experiences these fears every day.

I would like to thank my supervisor Jean Ho helping me in check, supporting and guiding me through this exhibition. I thank my family and friends for assisting me where they could for the past 4 years and a special thank you to my best friends Jessica and Jonathan for providing me with valuable feedback and motivation.