



<b>COUNTRY:</b> Denmark	<b>DISEASE:</b> Crohn's Disease
<b>FORMAT:</b> Sculpture	<b>TITLE:</b> My Disease In Disguise
<b>ARTIST:</b> Birgitte Christens	

### ARTIST'S SUMMARY

The artwork illustrates the affected intestines of the patient through douche tubes which we associate with private/intimate bathing habits. The douche tubes carry water in the same way that our intestines carry food and liquids through the body. The tubes close up if they get calcified or form knots. The metallic intestines have been fitted with ceramic objects showing the stenosis the patient suffers from. The ceramic has red and yellow shared to show the inflammation of the intestines. The ceramic pieces are placed on a hanger, representing the body. We clean our body on the outside, just like we clean our clothes, to appear nice and healthy. Patients with Crohn's Disease are ill on the inside, and our eyes cannot see it. The hanger is therefore placed in a stand with a transparent

plastic bag over it, just like in a dry-cleaning shop, enabling the spectator to see the disease. The empty bags represent healthy bodies; they don't feel their intestines and these are therefore shown to be invisible. Some of the ceramic objects carry imprints of elegant lingerie as a contrast to the symptoms of Crohn's, which include uncontrollable bowel movements and foul smells that we try to hide or avoid. It's a complex challenge that patients with Crohn's Disease face every day.

### PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The role of the patient was to convey what it is like to live with Crohn's Disease, a chronic and invisible condition. By describing her life story and her view of life, she has enabled the artist, Birgitte, to create an artwork.