

Pathology Statement

Pathology both brings up and rejects the idea of proving illness in a social context by exploring the nuances of medical records and the inability of a test result or diagnosis to describe what a patient's life looks like. Using silver darkroom paper and materials from my own medical experiences, I am creating a body of evidence that challenges the burden of proof placed upon me when accessing medical treatment, accommodations, and social support.

Making this work is an extended process that mirrors the process of accessing medical treatment. Exposure times for lumen prints can be long, and most in this series have taken around half an hour, a length of time that can be compared to hold wait-times to speak with hospitals and insurance companies, and time spent in waiting rooms during busy appointment times. I manually lay materials out onto the paper and carefully use glass to pin them down, as if preparing a slide for a microscope. Then each print is fixed and scanned, each step revealing a new perspective of the original print, similarly to how each new test result provides a different insight into the state of one's health.

Pathology considers the relationship between privacy, medical information, disability, and gender identity by allowing viewers to spectate on this ordinarily personal spread of data. I am disregarding the privacy around my own medical archive in order to demonstrate the absurdity of demanding private medical information, particularly in the context of satisfying social curiosity.