

# Angélique de Place

## THE INVISIBLE:

The Invisible is an on going documentation of my experience with endometriosis. Diagnosed in 2017, this chronic autoimmune disease cost me four surgeries in less than a year, two in 2018 and a fifth to come in 2019. During those months of sick leave, I strive - when my body allows me - to picture the reality of this invisible and so badly diagnosed disease.

One in ten women in age of childbearing is reached by endometriosis. Either 176 million women battling worldwide with very intense pain during menstrual periods and often with infertility. The uterine lining deposits outside the uterus and bleeds during periods. Bleeding, which can not be evacuated naturally, causes lesions and cysts. These cysts grow bigger, damage the reproductive system, the bowel, bladder or more and become heavily painful. Despite a large number of cases, this disease is still wildly unknown and misunderstood and diagnosed with a delay of 7 to 10 years on average. Today, no cure exists for endometriosis. The surgeries, pain killers, menopausal injections, and pills prescribed are fighting the symptoms not the disease and its cause, remaining unknown.

This documentary tend to describe the different layers of issues the disease create and how it affect daily life. Because endometriosis is not just about pain but also about fatigue, depression, brain fog, anxiety, hormonal imbalances, loneliness ... the list goes on. Social and professional life are affected, creating isolation and financial difficulties. Endometriosis is a chronic condition from which women suffer on a daily basis. Often when confirmed, the condition has reached the later stages and vital organs are damaged and infertility had already occurred. Those intimate images go beyond autobiography, they are proofs. Each of them tries to expose the reality in its complexity and its shadows.

There is a huge stigma surrounding menstrual health and a long and continuing history of women's pain not being taken seriously and even writing it off as women's hysteria, depression or stress. Meanwhile, million of women are suffering due to chronic lack of research.