



Design Takes
On Risk

safe

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART



Therapeutic Felt-tip Pen Model: 2001

Mathieu Lehanneur (French, born 1974)

Various materials, 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 6" (3 x 3 x 15 cm)



The magic of treating illnesses vanished with the disappearance of apothecaries and healers. As the chemical composition of drugs grows in complexity, the emotional implications of its interaction with the patient are often forgotten. In Mathieu Lehanneur's mind, the restoration of the rituals associated with medication will retrieve the promise of healing.

Taking into account the patient's psychology, Lehanneur defines four kinds of relationship with a disease, based on feelings of repulsion, attraction, fear, or desire: the conflict, the coexistence, the refusal, and the imaginary illness. His series of *Objets Thérapeutiques* results from these states of mind (see pages 183–85).

The first category, the Conflictual relationship, deals with the perception of the illness as a threatening entity and the medication as the reminder of that menace. A transdermal analgesic for chronic pain, the Therapeutic Felt-tip Pen lets the patient write on the painful area of the body. The used cartridge is removed at the end of the day. The medicine disappears with the disease, until the patient gets to the final dose that represents his recovery.

In the Coexistence situation, a sort of nonaggression pact between the patient and his illness, he

accepts the disease and an often lengthy treatment. The medicine becomes an integral part of the patient's everyday life, merging with his domestic rituals and habits. The First Mouthful is attached to the prongs of a fork when the medicine has to be taken orally at mealtime. A small dose of medication has been integrated into the Therapeutic Handkerchief, administered through the nose to alleviate allergic rhinitis.

In the Refusal relationship, the patient refuses to accept a real disease and the need for treatment, particularly when the symptoms seem nonexistent or the prescription is just preventive. Mutual dependence is emphasized in *The Third Lung*, a treatment for asthmatic patients in denial. In this case the medication is, in fact, the dependent, increasing its volume to alert the patient to the urgency of taking the dose to help it return to its normal shape. *Liquid Bone* is a cure for osteoporosis that renders visible an invisible pathology by gradually dissolving by effervescence, thus making evident the urgency of a remedy.

The concept of medication as an object in its own right, and the consideration of the patient's behavior as an integral part of the treatment will help establish new therapeutic solutions that integrate the emotional response and the daily ritual that it entails. —P. J.



The First Mouthful Model. 2001

Mathieu Lehanneur (French, born 1974)

Various materials, two pieces: $\frac{1}{4} \times 5 \frac{1}{4} \times 7"$
(1 x 13 x 18 cm) and $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \times 3 \frac{1}{4}"$ (2 x 2 x 8 cm)

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Therapeutic Handkerchief Model. 2001

Mathieu Lehanneur (French, born 1974)

Various materials, $\frac{1}{4} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 \frac{1}{4}"$
(1 x 7 x 5.5 cm) folded





The Third Lung Model 2001

Mathieu Lehanneur (French, born 1974)

Various materials, two pieces: $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ "
(6 x 9 x 11 cm) and $\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " (2 x 8.5 x 6.5 cm)

awareness

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Liquid Bone Model 2001

Mathieu Lehanneur (French, born 1974)

Various materials, two pieces: $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ "
(1 x 1 x 8 cm) and $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ " (2 x 2 x 8 cm)

