



LAUREN LOHMAN

Shedding

woven & printed fabric, turquoise, red-dyed coral, perriwinkle-dyed coral, yarn, lace trim, crocheted-yarn encased wooden beads, fabric-wrapped wooden beads

“Snakes have a powerful tie to renewal and rebirth. They shed their skin in a continuous, tubular piece. Shedding allows their bodies to grow and discard the previous skin, which housed parasites accumulated during that skin’s lifetime. This dramatic act, dwarfing the unnoticeable flaking of human skin, parallels one’s journey through illness, specifically cancer.

A snake’s venom is another aspect relating to cancer, specifically the radiation cancer patients endure. The venom is poisonous yet also associated with chemicals in plants that can heal. Similarly, when undergoing radiation, cancer patients shed their hair because poison enters their bodies, but this poison often saves lives.



I chose to create a necklace representing the important stage of rebirth that cancer patients experience to continue growing. People who go through life changing illnesses grow, much like serpents after shedding their skin. Neither process occurs gradually. They are difficult struggles to enter the next chapter. In my necklace, turquoise slabs dangle from the top representing scales slowly shedding. One side is covered with scales, while the other is shedding and being reborn. I also wanted to make the strands below the scales colorful and bold, much like after it is so close to being lost.”