

# What Lies Beneath

Niki South



## Introduction

‘What Lies Beneath’, expresses my reflections on community using the landscape of an ancient woodland to create a visual model where things successfully coexist and support each other. Here my subconscious thoughts become smething concrete.

Though humans provoked the concept of the work, they are not evident in the images. Unlike woodland communities, the local human community is often disharmonious and driven by difference.

The inclusive, harmonious characteristics of these diverse woodland societies would benefit human societies where sadly, ‘incomers’ like myself, are never accepted as local, no matter how long passes, or what they contribute to the neighbourhood – a story common to settings across the globe.

Niki South 2024



Community

What Lies Beneath?







What lies *here* beneath the willing emerald wrapping, accepting their collective realm?  
What lies *elsewhere* beneath man's disguised demeanour, civil but deliberately divisive?





What lies *here* beneath the abundant enveloping eiderdown, slumbering peacefully together?

What lies *elsewhere* beneath acceptable appearances, charming but prejudiced?





What lies *here* beneath the luminescent selfless sheath, accepting mutual benefit?

What lies *elsewhere* beneath structural facades, faking friendship but murmuring malice?







What lies *here* beneath the verdant creeping coverlet, collectively enjoying comfort?

What lies *elsewhere* beneath deceitful welcomes, smiling but spreading spite?



What lies *here* beneath the soothing snaking sleeve, insulated from harm by another?

What lies *elsewhere* beneath undesired need, acknowledged but resented?





What lies *here* beneath the softest downy dress, sharing nourishment contentedly?

What lies *elsewhere* beneath community spirit, concealed but festering?









Reflect



## What Lies Beneath

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What lies *elsewhere* beneath man's disguised demeanour, civil but deliberately divisive?

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# Footnotes



**Diversity:** the fact that very different people or things exist within a group or place



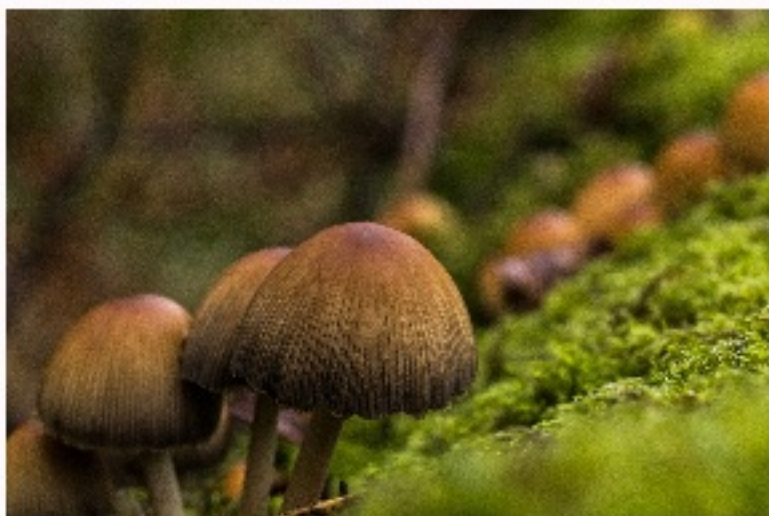
**Exchange:** a situation in which one person gives to other person something and receives something else of a similar type or value



**Interdependence:** related to one another in such a close way that each one needs the other in order to exist



**Harmless:** a situation in which people live and work not with other people, or in a way that does not damage things around them



Network: a group of people, things or ideas that are connected or that work together



Neurobiology: the study of how the brain and nervous system work. They need to be prepared to handle





**Reciprocal** - one according to an arrangement by which you do something for someone who does something for you



**Conspiration** - an alliance between people in regard to doing something together which is considered harmful to others



Niki South is a visual artist born in England, now living in Pembrokeshire Wales. She creates images as metaphors for something beyond the subject represented in the image.

Her work is a personal response to landscapes, both internally and externally – In this work, combining the world in her head with the one in front of her, helped to heal some of the wounds that inspired the story's beginning.

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