

Niki South

What Lies Beneath



Preface

‘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 something 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.

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What Lies Beneath: 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?





What Lies Beneath: Residents





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



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



Network: a group of people, organisations, or places that are connected or that work together

Harmony: a setting where people live and work well with other people, or in a way that does not damage things around them







Reciprocal: done according to an arrangement by which you do something for someone who does the same thing for you



Nourish: to give a person, animal, or plant, the food and care that they need to live, grow and be healthy

Cooperation: a situation in which people or organisations work together to achieve a result that will benefit all of them



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





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Niki South  
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Niki South is a visual artist born in England, now living in Pembrokeshire, Wales. She creates photographs 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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