

Cover Artwork: Hidden Memories, digital photo collage, 2023

Artist Statement

Heather 'Von' Steinhagen, Artist of Sorts Whitehorse, Yukon
art@heathersteinhagen.ca

Hidden Memories is a digital collage featuring a handmade sewn doll and a group of mushrooms. The mirrored composition reflects the hidden connections and unspoken communication between people, nature, and memories. The doll was created while living with my grandma during her cancer treatment in Cowessess First Nation. It symbolizes my journey of reconnecting with my roots, using the sewing tools, quilting squares and guidance she gifted me. Infused with medicinal herbs like sweetgrass and yarrow, the doll embodies our shared experiences and lessons.

The mushrooms represent the mycelium networks that connect plants, mirroring our own energetic connections to family, land, and culture. This natural phenomenon symbolizes the unseen ties that shape our identities and relationships.

Figure 1

Hidden Memories



References

- Steinhagen, H. V. (2023). *Hidden Memories*. Digital photo collage. *The artist sorts*: Whitehorse.
- Steinhagen, H. V. (2022). *Kokum Doll*: medicine doll with found material, sweet grass and yarrow. Digital photo collage. *The artist sorts*: Whitehorse.