

Invisible War

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Tif Holmes (U.S. Army)



Composite Photograph with Digital Painting (2012), Courtesy Tif Holmes

Description:

This is a three-layer image consisting of two images of American flags dated ca. 1953 that were given to my uncles after serving in the Korean War, and an image of my Basic Combat Training platoon photo dated 2005. After the three photographs were layered into one, I used computer software to digitally paint over the top of the image.

I created this image on Memorial Day 2012 as an acknowledgement and celebration of those who have suffered and continue to suffer in service to this nation (and other nations) on battlefields both distant and near. But even more specifically, this

image is representative of the numerous men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces who have been deeply wounded or murdered in battles less obvious and in less distant places. It is a photographic representation of the invisible becoming visible, in terms of both wounds and the wars in which they are suffered: psychological versus physical, the unseen versus the seen. It is a direct response to the epidemic of rape in the military, most recently brought to public light by the documentary entitled *The Invisible War* by filmmaker Kirby Dick.

"How do you keep war accountable to the American people when war becomes invisible?"

You make it visible.