

(Self) Portrait of a Savior

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Tif Holmes (U.S. Army)



Composite Photograph, Digitally Processed (2012), Courtesy
Tif Holmes

Description:

This image is a composite photograph consisting of two portraits and multiple other photographs for texture and color. Of the two portraits used, one is an intimate composition of a statue of Christ during the last hours of his crucifixion. The close-up image communicates to the viewer the pain and suffering Christ endured on his final journey to the cross. The other portrait—a self-portrait of the artist—was layered on top of the portrait of Christ, lining up the facial features and softening some details for a better blend. The eyes are mine. The lines at the corner of the mouth are mine. Part of the nose is mine. The mouth, eyebrows, chin, cheeks, nose bridge, and part of the nose are an amalgamation of the Christ statue's and my own. The concept is simple: we all suffer—some of us terribly—but there is the strength of a savior within each of us, and we must find that within ourselves to rise again. For me personally, this image represents an acceptance of my own responsibility to this life: a responsibility to my own well-being, and a commitment to saving myself from the pain and suffering of post-traumatic stress.