



Kris A. (Whitehead) Seen

Veteran: Army 1988-1992

Writer/Performing Artist

About the Art: A retelling of an Army Airborne Paratrooper experience through a female soldier's perspective. Assemblage of sensory descriptions intended to conjure an image, transporting the reader to that time and place.

About the Artist: Kris A. (Whitehead) Seen entered active duty in the United States Army on April 20, 1988. After completing basic training and primary specialty training as a Multi-Channel Communications Systems Operator – 31M, she attended and graduated Airborne Parachute training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Assigned to Bravo Company, 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, Kris was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Kris deployed to Saudi Arabia for eight months during Operation Desert Storm, convoying into Iraq and providing communications for the ground offensive. She left the military in April 1992. She is currently an Information Technology Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture, the mother of two sons, and resides in Colorado.

Artist's Experience: “Anyone interested in Airborne School, there is a meeting at 16:00 today,” barked the drill sergeant to my platoon of trainees. That started my path to being an Airborne Paratrooper, one which few female military members embark on and is rarely portrayed in any form. My paratrooper journey involved all the senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) and influences the telling of my memories. I want the reader to “feel” this memory through shared human factors, and hopefully gain new insight to the female military experience.

