

Nestled (in my mother's garden), a visual journal by Maria Parrella-ilaria

**October 1-31, 2014, opening Oct. 4, 12-2pm
Camera Craft Gallery, Sault Ste. Marie, ON**

'Nestled' is the second installment of a multi-year documentation series focusing on a hidden urban garden space that has been in my family for a number of generations.

I have called this garden and its attached building 'home' since my parents bought the property in 1969. The building is now 113 years old, the back deck and its garden just over 40 years old. Of those who helped in constructing this elevated garden space, only my father remains (two uncles and a cousin, all welders, died within the last 13 years). My mother was the primary caretaker of the garden—she was blessed with an innate understanding of the mechanisms of growth and survival and prided herself on a lifetime of amazingly fruitful harvests. Sadly, she passed away March 14th of this year. Yet even in her absence, she can forever be found in the garden, always a part of its never ending cycle of growth and renewal.

Once my husband and I moved into the 2nd floor of the building (2002), the garden became more of a wild meadow (neither of us is particularly blessed with a green thumb) and the hunting ground of three cats (one who would spend his final days lying in the shade of towering sunflowers). This *hidden nature* is a year round habitat for song birds and crows and due to its elevated construction is noticed in passing by many yet remains a mystery to most.

The images presented in this exhibit document the unfolding of the last 13 months starting with September 2013. While most of the images present the growth and fecundity of my hidden garden space, there are images from around the neighbourhood and specifically, my parents' newest garden, found only a block away.

As with last year's exhibit, '(My) Hidden Nature', all images for 'Nestled' were taken with and subsequently edited on an HTC One S Smartphone using Instagram, Snapseed and VSCO apps. Many of the images have been shared on Facebook and Instagram and more will be added as the documentation process continues over the next three-five years. To follow along, go to www.instagram.com, user page: @mavispi and/or #myhiddennature.