

Beverley Lee, 2002. *Reflections*. Photographic montage. The artist comments: "One afternoon, as I observed a developmental assessment of a child with autistic features, I saw a young child who appeared a little clumsy, tripping over the doctor's foot, or bumping into furniture. Often, autistic children cannot assess how close objects are, or realize that they should be avoided. In my picture, I have taken three colour photos of furniture: a chair, lamp and table. Mirror images represent how I imagined an autistic child may see these objects: distorted, larger or smaller than they actually are. These objects may have less meaning to them; [this is] signified in black and white. In the background, there are a variety of forms of the same objects Because autism can be so variable in each child, things perceived by one can be seen quite differently by another. Although all these images may look like a chaotic collage, they are still in a repetitive order of chair, lamp and table from right to left and up to down, with a chair in every corner [demonstrating] the need for repetition and routine seen in autism."



One thousand words



When I was a medical student in the 1970s I found this photograph among a collection of photos in the possession of my grandmother. It shows an operating room of the Russian army during World War I. My grandfather, Heinrich Adrian, is at the head of the operating table, giving anesthetic. The identities of the other people are unknown.

My grandfather was not a trained physician. He was one of the Prussian Mennonites whose ancestors had been invited by Catherine the Great to settle in what had become southern Russia. Because the Mennonites were pacifists, one of the conditions of their immigration was exemption from military service; they were allowed alternatives to being combatants in war, one of which was to serve in the *Sanitätsdienst*, or health service. My grandfather served in this capacity. Apparently, one of his tasks was to bury amputated limbs at the end of the day.

He came to Canada in 1924, settling in southern Manitoba, and spent the rest of his working life farming and trading in farm goods. — Arthur Wiebe, *Family physician, Kincardine, Ont.*