

Friends



Michael Dooley (U.S. Army)



Digital print (2012), from the collections of Michael Dooley, Naperville, IL, and DeCillis Collection, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA, digital image courtesy Michael Dooley

Description:

The roller coaster is over and the last leaf has fallen. I feel like a walking dead man because I have prepared myself to die, though I have lived. I bide my time to be reacquainted with my old friends.

A soldier meets many people and accepts many things over their career. As they walk down the path of conflict and war, they

become intimate friends with the only certainty of life. I believe that once a person has internalized this, it can be liberating and horrifying.

Liberation is found by understanding one's own mortality and a heightened appreciation for every moment. Horror lies in the inevitability of life's outcome and the futility of effort.