

# Subtlety



Michael Dooley (U.S. Army)



Digital print (2013), from the collections of Michael Dooley, Naperville, IL, and DeCillis Collection, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA, digital image courtesy Michael Dooley

## Description:

Pitter patter goes the blood splatter.// Don't gawk or balk, but appreciate the great art that is life at its crescendo. // It's not that I want, // It's.... that I have to. // Logic says did you talk to a professional? // I couldn't dare, it is too permanent in its success // .... official records and all. // The legion of "what ifs" // ... what

if “it” worked ? // ... what if I wanted to continue government work or help others in some official capacity? // ... what if it failed? // ... as ruined as my current state. // Opening my mouth would be as much a downfall as silently suffering. // I wanted friends... // I wanted to be accepted ... // unconditionally ... .. // in the outside world; but we are mad men trapped in tiny boxes stumbling and fumbling ... eternally solar eclipsed. // I have entirely too much empathy and love; and I am disgusted with what I believe must happen, as selfish as it may seem, for myself. “Live your life,” right? Well I did, and now it’s not mine.