

Vet tried drugs, suicide before turning to art on ‘combat paper’

Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library to host combat veteran/writer/artist Feb. 1

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 8, 2013) – According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 18 veterans commit suicide every day – about one every 80 minutes.

Malachi Murphy tried.

The Texas youngster had joined the Army National Guard in 2003, turning 18 years old in basic training and 19 in Iraq. After drug addiction and a suicide attempt, he volunteered to go back to Iraq.

“Wherever I was, I was not home. Whoever I was, I wasn’t myself. This was the second time I found myself between Iraq and a hard place. I chose Iraq. I volunteered to go back instead of facing the shame of rehab, addiction, and the fact that I had tried to kill myself,” he wrote.

He turned 21 in Iraq, and discovered he was a writer and an artist. Writing and art kept him from volunteering to go back again.

Instead, he now writes and creates art on what’s known as “combat paper” – paper literally created from military uniforms, often shredded by the donor’s own hands in an attempt to find a way through unbelievable stress.

Muncy is bringing his work to Indianapolis in February – specifically to the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library, for its IDADA First Friday Art Tour event on Feb. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. Visit www.vonnegutlibrary.org or www.idada.org.

#

About the artist

Malachi Muncy’s work is part of the National Veterans Art Museum (Chicago) Collection Online, started in 2011 to share high-resolution images of every piece of art in the collection and biographical material on the artists. His poetry and prose have appeared in the Warrior Writers anthologies.

He served in the Texas Army National Guard as a motor vehicle operator 2003-2009, with service in Iraq 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.

Muncy holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Texas State University and is pursuing a second bachelor’s degree in English. He is manager of Under the Hood Café at the GI Outreach Center just outside of Fort Hood.

About the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is a public-benefit, nonprofit organization championing the literary, artistic and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut. The library seeks to engage people in the written word – especially their own. We are in the historic Emelie Building in downtown Indianapolis (340 N. Senate Ave.), thanks to the support of Katz & Korin, PC. The library is open daily except Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. and is closed on all major holidays. Admission is free, donations appreciated. Vonnegutlibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Interviews and images available.

Cindy Dashnaw, (317) 432-2456 (cell), cdashnaw@bohlsengroup.com