

We cordially invite you to a

Memorial

October 3

Katie Murphy Amphitheater

5:30-7:30

To honor the life and artwork of

MICHAEL NOETH DM2 (SW)

Illustration Alumnae Class of '94

**Who while working on assignment to the
Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon**

September 11, 2001

**Died in the line of duty from the Pentagon
terrorist attack.**

Draftsman Second Class, Michael A Noeth, United States Navy, distinguished himself by meritorious service as Graphics Specialist, Team A Crisis Action United States European Command winning the joint service achievement medal from the Secretary of Defense. During his six years in the Navy he sailed around the world three times and produced a large body of painting and drawings of life and scenes of his Navy travels. These works have been on view at the Pentagon and in two one-person exhibitions recently in SoHo at the Montserrat Gallery in Manhattan. During his assignment on the USS Russell Michael sailed to the Persian Gulf twice on deployment. His second title earned was Surface Warfare Specialist. Currently he had been awarded a prestigious official U.S. Naval Art Center commission to produce 27 portraits of every Admiral who has served as Chief of Naval Operations from the inception of the office to date. The portraits were to be permanently displayed in the Navy section of the Pentagon. He is survived by his mother Merrilly Noeth and his grandmother Muriel Kuhn both of 35-30 81st street, Jackson Heights, New York 11372.

We will feature slides of Michael Noeth's artwork.

REMEMBERING, RECOVERING

In the wake of September 11, when nearly every conversation in New York included the words "Did you know anyone...?", we heard the stories that follow about three alumni. We hope readers who know of other alumni who were directly affected by the tragedy will let us know.

MICHAEL NOETH, ILLUSTRATION '94

Michael Noeth graduated from FIT and joined the Navy to see the world, but kept on painting and drawing—his shipmates, navy life, the exotic places he saw. As an illustrator and draftsman, he was commissioned to paint portraits of all the past chiefs of naval operations, which were to hang in the Pentagon. Michael, 30, loved the Navy and he loved art, and he'd found a life in which he could do both. He kept in touch with friends and faculty at FIT, especially Karen Santry, assistant chair of the Illustration Department.

After the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, Michael called Santry from the Pentagon to make sure she was all right. From her apart-

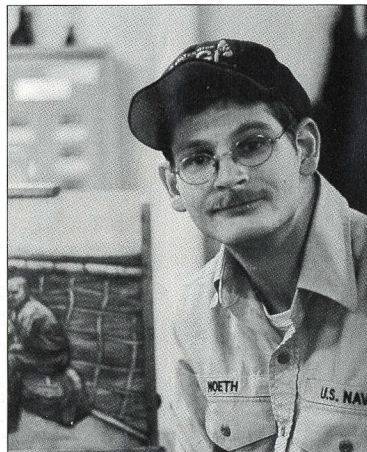
ment in lower Manhattan, she had seen the plane crash into the tower, but she assured him she was fine. Then the line went dead. Santry later learned that Michael was among the 189 killed when another hijacked plane hit the Pentagon.

Santry organized a memorial that filled FIT's Katie Murphy Amphitheatre with naval officers, seamen, and members of the FIT community on October 3. That evening, Rear Admiral H. Kirk Unruh, Jr. recalled DM2 Michael A. Noeth's distinguished service and artistic ability, and presented the Purple Heart and the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Michael's mother and grandmother. But perhaps the most memorable moments came when Santry showed slides of Michael's work, which has been exhibited in solo shows in New York and Hawaii, and talked about his best legacy—his art.

ERICH PREIS, ILLUSTRATION '94

Art can heal, as Erich Preis knows well. After majoring in Illustration at FIT, he went on to earn a degree in art therapy at C.W. Post College. He has taught art to at-risk high school students, and is developing a program, Conflict Resolution Through Art.

After the attacks, he and his business partner, Ehren Joseph, went to the armory on East 26th Street, which was set up as a center for the families of the missing. They brought art supplies and two huge sheets of paper, which they spread on the ground. People began to write messages and draw pictures, expressing heartbreak and hope. A woman named Jennifer, who worked



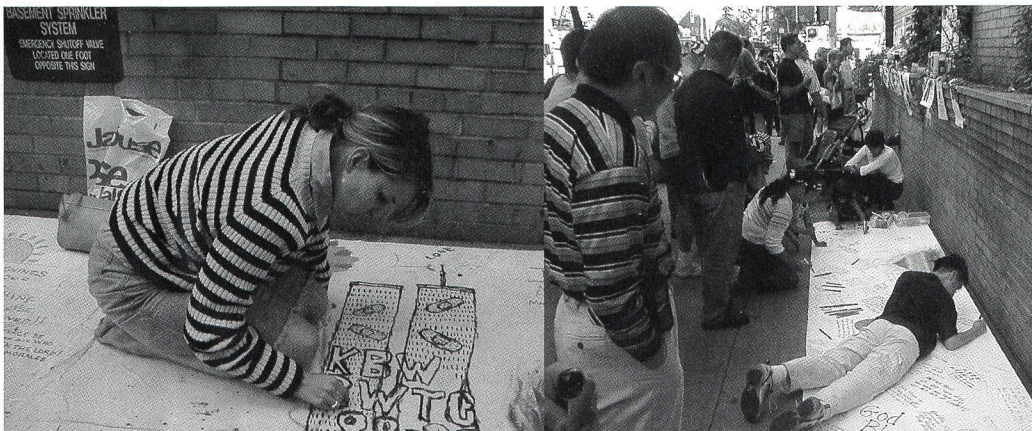
Above, clockwise from top: Michael Noeth, who lost his life in the Pentagon attack; Michael's graphite-on-paper illustration, *Shining the Bell 1*, 15 by 16 inches; Rear Admiral H. Kirk Unruh salutes as he presents the Purple Heart to Michael's mother and grandmother at the FIT memorial.

Right: Manu Dhingra at home in New York City

Below: Outside the 26th Street Armory in Manhattan, Erich Preis' mural project gave people the opportunity to express themselves through art.

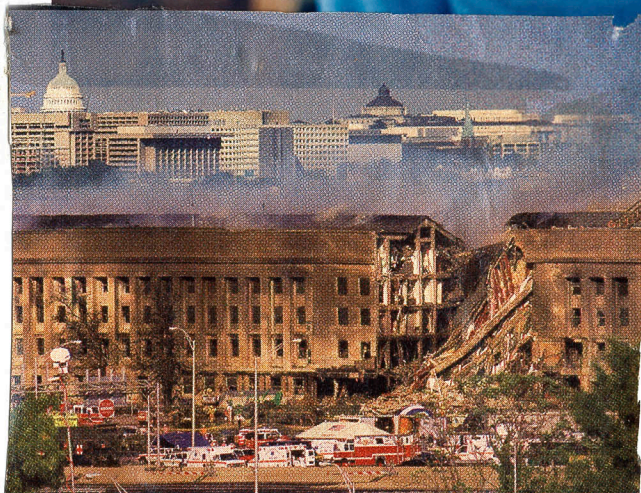
Photo © Robert Miller

Photos © Erich Preis



at Cantor Fitzgerald, which lost 700 employees, painted for more than two hours. A firefighter left kneepads that had belonged to a colleague who died in the collapse.

At that time, Erich didn't know that his own loss would soon become personal. On October 3, he sat weeping in the front row at the memorial for his FIT roommate, Michael Noeth.



Smoke rises from the Pentagon on September 11.