

Artist Statement: 26th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

Artist Name: Yusef "Q" Qualls-El

I CAME TO PRISON AT SIXTEEN & WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON. ON SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2021, I WAS RESENTENCED & GIVEN A TERM OF YEARS WHICH COULD ALLOW ME TO GO HOME IN 2023. I RAN THE GAMUT OF EMOTIONS & THOSE EMOTIONS ARE REFLECTED IN MY SUBMISSIONS THIS YEAR. I AM BLESSED & FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO NOT HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY OLD NEIGHBORHOODS & ALL THAT WOULD COME WITH THAT. I'VE FELT BEAT DOWN BY THE TIME INITIALLY DOLED OUT BY THE COURT. I HAVE THROWN MYSELF ON THE MERCY OF THE COURT & ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS. I ACCEPTED THAT IN PRISON, "SOCIAL DISTANCE" IS NORMAL & CONSTANT EVEN BEYOND ANY PANDEMIC. I ALSO LEARNED HOW TO LET MY SOUL CRY & CHEER & LAUGH THROUGH MY ART. THIS YEAR WAS TOUGH FOR EVERYONE. I APPRECIATE TO THE END OF THE WORLD, THOSE WHO CHOSE TO EASE THE BURDEN OF SOMEONE ELSE JUST BECAUSE THEY COULD. 2023!!!

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.