



Artist Statement 30th Annual Exhibition of Artists, ^{"In Michigan"} Prisons.

Artist Name: Frank Mitchell #421881 "25 Years in prison"

If Buzz were here I'd mention a kid named "Sydney" I'd say "His vision is becoming culture in these women and men who sacrifice their time, energy, and emotion for us."

Sydney spoke to me last year and purchased a piece of art called "Many Moons of Mary." "It changed my life!"

Something in me found a way back to hope in her words. For years I've wanted my art to have a purpose, A meaning, A statement.

Because maybe, if my art matters, "I can matter!"

She settled any doubt I had in myself and now I only want to be worth the time all you guys put in to this project. "Buzz lives Forever in you."

American Sacrifice comes in many forms and my art this year focuses on the positives and negatives ~~and~~ of that theme. "Letting go" points out the sacrifice a father makes when sending his daughter off to service. "Holding on" is about a patriot whose lost his hope, He's sacrificed his life to an American Dream and maybe he's ~~lost~~ lost Faith. But, he still has a chance to come back from the edge. So he's Holding on. continuing →

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Tempera as a medium is difficult. I keep using it anyway because it teaches me patience as an artist. All this work is tempera

"American Sacrifice"

(Watch a father comfort his daughter before a military deployment.)

Something in that moment will tell you everything that matters about those two strangers. You wouldn't need to meet them or know about their entire life story to know they are about to sacrifice a piece of themselves for our country.

(See a patriot lose hope.)

Something in him dies and you'd go away thinking "this man has sacrificed his life to an American dream that failed him".

(Own an hour with P.C.A.P. volunteers.)

Understand it also comes from sacrifice. My art this year speaks to the broad array of humans who try to cultivate a better America. Sydney Mukasa spoke to me last year and her words made me feel like my art finally had a purpose. I will try to make your sacrifice own value.

Thank You Sydney!

[Faint, mirrored handwriting from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper.]