

Artist Statement — 30th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

Artist Name: Rio Carlin

I began writing at a young age because I found it therapeutic. Although I enjoyed it, I didn't have a passion for it until one High School Instructor told me I should pursue a career in writing. Once I discovered ink coursed through my veins and I bled through a pen, I never looked back. My art is my words.

But wait!! There's more.

After writing "The Stained Floor," I wanted a visual companion to go along with the imagery from the essay. (This is my first heartfelt attempt at drawing). The hall is a replica of the RTP Unit in Macomb where I worked as a POA for years. I hoped to capture the true suffering felt once traversing that wing.

"The Revolving Door" represents the hundreds of people I've observed over the past 25-years who return multiple times like they had reservations at their favorite restaurant. Some of these people I've HELPED get home, yet they come back for reasons I can't comprehend. All I need is one opportunity and the MDOC will be a distant memory.