

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

Artist Name: Aaron Rose

I am an Air Force veteran who served six honorable years. I am a father of two amazing children that I miss dearly. They are fortunate to have a great mother who does the best she can to give them a good life.

After coming to prison I learned about my major depressive disorder and anxiety in partly due to PTSD. After receiving help by the grace of God I received treatment that helped reshape my thoughts. As I made progress I discovered talents I had not known before. Painting is one of many and is why I am here today. I developed a passion for painting after watching many episodes of Bob Ross. I took a chance ordering paints, brushes, and canvas but quickly found success. Painting has become very therapeutic, which is why I paint during breaks while studying at Calvin University. I am working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in Faith and Community Leadership. I enjoy sending home paintings for all my family and friends to enjoy. I hope that my God given talent will allow me to give back to the ones I love whom I have taken much. Thank you for sharing your time with me.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.