

Artist Statement: 27th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

Artist Name: 14357-040

FOR ME ART AND CRAFTING IS A RELEASE. I FIND MUCH JOY, COMFORT, AND RELAXATION
WHEN I AM ENGAGED WITH MY PIECES. FOR THIS YEARS SHOW I CREATED TWO PIECES THAT
REFLECT WHO I AM. ONE PIECE REFLECTS THIS IN A SUBTLE WAY, WHILE THE SECOND PIECE IS
NOT SO SUBTLE. THE PIECE "PETRICHOR" RECALLS ONE OF MY BIGGEST CHILDHOOD FEARS, THUNDERSTORMS,
WHILE ALSO PAYING HOMAGE TO THE SERENITY OF RURAL WEST MICHIGAN, WHERE I GREW UP. WITH
MY OTHER PIECE, ENTITLED "THIS LITTLE BOY...", I METAPHORICALLY DREW SIMILARITIES BETWEEN
MY LIFELONG STRUGGLES WITH AUTISM AND BEING IN PRISON THROUGH THE USE OF AN ACROSTIC
AND A RENDITION OF MY PRESCHOOL BOOKING PHOTO. THIS PIECE ALSO EXPLORES THE INDIVIDUALITY
OF THOSE WHO ARE AUTISTIC WHILE ALSO UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EMPATHY.
MY HOPE WITH "THIS LITTLE BOY..." IS TO BRING ABOUT AWARENESS OF BOTH AUTISM AND MENTAL
ILLNESSES WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS. THESE TWO PIECES ARE CROSS-STITCHED WITH
THE HIGHEST QUALITY FABRICS AND EMBROIDERY FLOSS AVAILABLE. "PETRICHOR" CONTAINS
56,916 STITCHES AND TOOK 416 HOURS OVER 64 DAYS TO COMPLETE. "THIS LITTLE BOY..." TOOK 800
HOURS OVER 108 DAYS TO COMPLETE AND CONTAINS 142,025 CROSS-STITCHES AND 7957 BACK STITCHES.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.