

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

Artist Name: DAKOTA SIMMOUS-RAW

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN ART SINCE GRADE SCHOOL.  
I'M HAPPIEST IN LIFE WHEN I'M CREATING OR BUILDING  
SOMETHING WITH MY HANDS. I REMEMBER THE DAY AND REASON  
I KNEW I LIKED DRAWING, I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH A GIRL  
WHO TOOK ART CLASS, I WOULD LEAVE SHOP CLASS TO FLIRT WITH  
HER, BUT IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE CLASS  
THE TEACHER FORCED ME TO DRAW OR CREATE SOME KIND OF ART. I LIKED  
THE GIRL SO I FIGURED I'D BETTER LEARN.

FOR ME THIS PIECE REPRESENTS WHAT I FEEL SHOULD BE GOING ON IN  
LIFE. THE BUTTERFLY (TOP LEFT) REPRESENTS A RACE OR CULTURE OF PEOPLE, THE MOTH  
(TOP RIGHT) REPRESENTS ANOTHER RACE OR CULTURE (EXP. BLACK & WHITE) BOTH ARE  
COMPLEX AND BEAUTIFUL, BOTH ARE DIFFERENT IN MULTIPLE WAYS BUT ALSO  
SO MUCH ALIKE. THE FLOWER (MIDDLE) REPRESENTS PEACE, LOVE, HARMONY.  
IT'S ABOUT BRINGING 2 UNIQUE YET SIMILAR THINGS TOGETHER

**PEACE + LOVE**

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.