

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

Artist Name: Charles VanHeck

I started carving Wood decoys so i could better draw in wild ducks. HANK WALTER'S got me started in 1996. He himself had been carving decoys for years. He was a licensed hunting and fishing guide. After a few years people started asking to buy some of my duck decoys. So i kept carving them. I even had BOB BIMBO who is also a licensed hunting and fishing guide and both guides live just a few houses away. BOB came to me and said that i was a good Bufflehead often called a butter Ball. He wanted to add a few to his spread. So he bought 6 of them. Two years he bought 3 more. I've made a few miniature when i first came down. ~~the~~ But the state will not let me come in here any more. So i tryed cedar pencil. But did not like the way they turned out. So i went to acrylic paint. I am not trying to prove any thing. I just miss ~~to~~ carving duck decoys. I've craved over 2200 of them and now by drawing them and painting them. It gives me some thing to do. I'll be the first to say, I am not very good at it. I am trying to do a better job of it. But i just dont have the talent. NOT like BILL ROSE OR Gail YAY - HANK WALTER'S - RICHARD WATSON OR LUCKY TOMIE. But ill keep trying and maybe ill get better at it. If not - well i enjoy it and it pleases me and that is what counts.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.