

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

Artist Name: AMIR SHAHIDEH

I SEE ART AS A LANGUAGE THAT IS AMBIGUOUS TO TRANSLATION. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MESSAGE WITHIN A PIECE LIES IN THE INTERPRETATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, THE CREATOR AND THE OBSERVER. IN "PRISONER OF MY MIND", I SOUGHT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES MANY OF US HAVE FOUND OURSELVES BATTLING FROM THE SHADOWS DURING THE PANDEMIC. LYING BEFORE AN INFINITE EXPANSE OF CHAOTIC DARKNESS IS OUR REPRESENTATIVE OF EMOTIONAL PAIN AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITY. WHILE THE STRAIGHTJACKET EVOKES THE IMAGE OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION, IT REPRESENTS THE MENTAL CONSTRAINTS OF DEPRESSION THAT LEAVE US FEELING LOST, LONELY, AND DEJECTED. I EXPERIMENT WITH BREAKING INSTILLED RULES AND PRACTICES TO FIND A MEANS OF FLUENTLY ARTICULATING MY THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS. THE USE OF BOLD COLORS IS TO CATCH THE VIEWERS ATTENTION AND DRAW THEM INTO THE STORYLINE.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.