

Shūjin 囚人

697-20

Silent Reflections

Most people that look at this picture wonder, "where is her mouth?" I think there is an enormous difference between not being able to speak, and not wanting to. Suffering through internal pain and problems while wearing a mask of aloofness to the world causes life altering damage. Shūjin means prisoner. I drew under this name not because I am a physical prisoner, even though I am, but because I've spent my life mentally a prisoner. Had I had the self-esteem, confidence, or even courage to ask for help throughout my life, I could have avoided this trail of destruction left in my wake. I know there are other people who, like me, don't know how to ask for help, but hopefully someone will see through their mask and save them.

The second thing people might wonder is, "what does the writing say?" It's from the song "Unravel" by The Unknown Songbird: "oh, can you tell me, can you tell me, the way that this should work. Just who's inside of me? the monster pulling strings. I'm broken lying, helpless dying, surrounded by the world. you stare and laugh with me, when you don't see a thing."