

**Artist Statement — 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons**

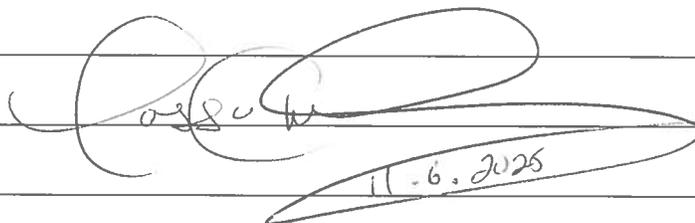
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art is to suffer. for the artist, to create walks one through the process of suffering. the artist knows that to present an image, that image must be a truth. truth must be complete or it fails.

in "woman in still water" i tried to capture the pain that women suffer and give a place of safety and serenity. men hurt women, and both suffer. women hurt themselves, and they suffer. so, "woman in still water" is a metaphor.

on the other hand, "enigmatic anguish" reflects the suffering of prison artists. the canvas is reused (multiple times). the pain is stiff and old. the brushes were third-hand. the system does not allow for creative space. so, we suffer. a bright spot is the painting on the wall: "As You Are." it is an actual organization aimed at 14-24 year olds. they help the non-mature mind develop. it parallels the brain science today where people receive life without parole sentences even though they were juveniles or people without fully developed brains. the enigma reflects the confusion in the process and the anguish, the suffering of artists and juveniles and others.

art is to suffer. art is truth.

  
11-6-2025