

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

Artist Name: Joseph 'Minx' Stacey

I use art to express a deeper sense of self and Identity as well as to question preconceived notions of "Normal".

"Reflections" is a statement that our inner sense of self may not reflect our outer appearance, not only in gender but in ways many find hard to understand.

"American Pride" is a testament to the complexity of American Identity and an expression of our failure to fully live up to our foundations of life, liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. It is an ideal that is worthy of the effort but we must acknowledge that it requires sacrifice and perseverance.

'Foot of the Cross' is a representation of the price that comes with the good things we receive and take for granted.