

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

Artist Name: Manuel Victor Gonzales

Title: Self-Destruction

As an human being, I enjoy the artistic world and respect those who have an eye for their canvas mind. I am not an artist. I merely enjoy the peace of mind that it brings me. Upon entering my canvas, I strive to be one with what I feel and how I feel.

The piece of art I am submitting is to show how I view Michigan. Michigan is a beautiful state. However, greedy people whom still hold their forefathers's views on slavery lend my view of Michigan a sour taste. These type of people will lead Michigan into self-destruction if they continue in such a manner.

My mind's creativity of art made me feel like I am in modern slavery. It made me pray one day Michigan will end mass incarceration and stop dehumanizing those whom they feel are beneath them. Cease hunting us to fill their evil dark clouds.

The colors I have chosen, are symbolized. Each color represents the following:

Michigan tilted - corruption and crookedness
Orange - hunting and issuance of state clothing
Red dollar sign - thrive on blood money

Antlers - prisoners (statistically: African Americans, Latinos, Caucasians)
Hand cuffs - quick to incarcerate
Bulls eye - prisons capitalize on citizens

Red, White and Blue - American flag
Blue - state issued clothing
Bullets - willing to kill and capture later

Riffles - police(blue), correctional officers(gray)
Dark background - no sincere sense of reform, correction or rehabilitation

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.