

Artist Statement: 26th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

Artist Name: Tim Brownell

Title: Down The DRAIN

I have always enjoyed playing and watching sports, especially the Olympics. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Athletes from around the world, gather at the host nation to compete against one another. It's really sad when world leaders and politicians use the athletes as pawns. This year's winter Olympics is being held in China. Some leaders want the USA and other countries to boycott the games because of China's inhuman treatment of the Uyghurs. ~~China's anti-religious crackdown began in 1999. Over 1.5 million Uyghurs have been placed in detention camps for re-education. Many have been xxxxxxxx tortured. This is very un-ethical and China needs to be held accountable for their actions. The politicians have known about this since 1999. If they really cared, they should stop buying products from China, they should put sanctions on them, The U.N. needs to act. But these leaders are weak or they just don't care. They want the Olympic athletes to do their dirty work for them. The Olympics are for the athletes not the politicians. The Olympic Committee could have chosen a different host country. These athletes have worked too long and hard to be denied a chance to win a gold medal, because world leaders and politicians won't do their jobs.~~

This abstract painting was done to demonstrate what can happen when politics invade the sporting world. ~~xx~~ The large purple rings are the world leaders and politicians. The Olympic rings represent the athletes. The rings are floating in space. The drain is a black hole. The politicians are going down the drain and are trying to take the athletes with them. However, there is one purple ring trying to hold the athletes back and save them. The pull is very strong and some have broken off to go down the drain with the politicians. While performing sports, athletes should just focus on their job and stay out of politics. Or they will also go down the drain, and people will stop ~~watching~~ watching them perform. WE watch sports to get away from politics, the two shouldn't mix.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.