

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

**RAYMOND SMITH**

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I started making flowers to support myself in here/prison. Not having the  
prerequisite financial help on the outside, I need something to generate  
money. It began with one flower I purchased from an inmate. I reversed  
engineered that flower a petal at a time, because the inmate wouldn't  
show me how to make it. I was never quite able to copy his design, but I  
was able to create my own design.

Fast forward many many years later. Now, I need only to look at a real  
flower and make it; or a copy more beautiful than the real thing. I find  
making flowers to be zen.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.

RS