

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

Artist Name: Roberto A'Avanzo

Prior to being sent to prison, I wasn't really involved in creating "art". But over the years, that's changed - and so have I. I not only find painting and doing collages works relaxing, I find it as a great positive means to express my inner thoughts and feelings. Prison life tends to distort expression. We're sometimes compelled to scream the silent scream, or cry the dry and unseen tear. But art has changed that for me. I create pieces that tell my story from my current perspective. "Who Dat?" illustrates my view on how we're sometimes perceived (unfairly) as prisoners. Close up, you see one thing. But take a few steps back, you see a different person. "Coins 'n Clocks" is my take one how the MDOC currently operates. Prisoners do (too much) "time", taxpayers dish out the wasteful amounts money. "Detroit" is my spin on how that city is faring nowadays. Lots of blue space for growing opportunity, but a lasting core of abstract greatness - when was the last time you visited the DIA, Cass Corridor, or Brick Town?

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.