

I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it.
- VAN Gogh

Artist Statement — 29th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

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I never painted anything until I came to Newberry
(2 years ago)
Correctional Facility here in the U.P. of Michigan, but
Somehow I've always expressed myself Artistically in other
ways. As far as painting goes I've never done anything like it.
It was frustrating at first. But my best stuff came out of
that frustration. I would go from pushing myself to just
letting go but the desire to keep exploring and growing
has been the driving force behind this whole evolution so
far. Just having expectations and being comfortable with what
I'm doing never moved my artwork to the next level.
I have to keep in mind that I can't allow myself to always
be at the mercy of whatever medium I am using. This way
the blank canvas seems exciting with infinite possibilities, then
at a certain point, "the work" starts to dictate where it's going.
and so, I become less the Author and more the companion to it all.
Then when the medium sometimes acts unpredictably, it GETS Fun
and adds an element of surprise. Because, then I don't know exactly
where it's going, and I've accepted that as both "part of the process"
"and the fun" - The Not Knowing.

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