

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

Artist Name: "DOC" COLLISON

FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS... EVERY MORNING @ 6:00 AM I SHOWER AND THEN
PAINT FOR NO LESS THAN 4 HOURS A DAY, EVERYDAY... FOR YEARS.
PAINTING KEEPS ME SANE, PAINTING CALMS MY DEPRESSION, PAINTING KEEPS ME
FOCUSED ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE. I'VE LOST MANY FRIENDS TO
THE VIRUS, DESPAIR AND HELPLESSNESS, ARE IN THOSE EYES. REGRET
IS IN MINE... 14 MORE HORRIBLE YEARS TO GO... THAT'S ABOUT 104
MORE PAINTINGS LEFT TO PAINT, I PRAY I MAKE IT, I PAINT TO
HONOR THOSE ARTISTS BEFORE ME, THOSE LIKE VARGAS, DJ, AND
MERCIO. I PAINT TO TEACH THOSE JUST STARTING OUT.
I NO LONGER THINK HOW TO PAINT... I FEEL THE PAINT ON MY
BRUSH, GLANCING AT THE TONE OR COLOR ON MY PALATE... I CANNOT
CHANGE THE WORLD FROM INSIDE THIS FENCE, BUT I CAN ^{IMPACT IT} ~~CHANGE~~
WITH MY ART, EVERYDAY FOR YEARS GONE BY, TO YEARS TO COME.
EVERYDAY, ONE DAY I SEE MY ART AND MYSELF OUTSIDE IN A
ART FESTIVAL, SMILING AT THOSE THAT STOP TO LOOK, ENJOYING THE
EXPRESSION ON FACES, WHILE I BURY MY FENCES.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.