

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

Artist Name: J. BLAKIE

THE IDEA FOR "FROM ANGER, HOPE" FIRST TO ROOT AS I SADLY WATCHED THE MANY PROTESTS THAT ERUPTED IN CITIES ALL ACROSS THE NATION IN 2020. AS SOMEONE WHO GREW UP IN A POOR, MIXED RACE NEIGHBORHOOD I HAVE EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATIONS. I HAVE ALSO WITNESSED DISPARITIES IN HOW SOME PEOPLE ARE TREATED AS OPPOSED TO OTHERS. FOR THE KIDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD IT FELT MORE LIKE CLASS OPPRESSION THAN RACISM AS IT WASN'T THE COLOR OF OUR SKINS THAT DETERMINED HOW WE WERE SOMETIMES TREATED ~~BY OTHERS~~ BUT RATHER IT WAS THE ADDRESS OUTSIDE OUR DOORS THAT SEEMINGLY BROUGHT OUT THE PREJUDICE OF OTHERS. BECAUSE OF MY OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THE ANGER BUT I DIDN'T WANT THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS PRINTING TO BE A NEGATIVE ONE. WE AS A PEOPLE CAN COLLECTIVELY CREATE CHANGE WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE. THAT SAID THE YELLOW TONES WORKING THEIR WAY FROM THE CENTER <sup>REPRESENT</sup> REPRESENT HOPE. HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW FOR EVERYONE, FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE, EVERYWHERE.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.