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

Artist Name: BC Kim

My work is part of an underground Oppressionist movement (art created under active oppression or institutional confinement as a means of resistance). Due to inherent restrictions, Oppressionist artists are often forced to utilize found, pilfered, or contraband materials to complete their works. Oppressionism pulls stylistic influences from street art, pop art, and urban graffiti writing, often set against realistic depictions of everyday confinement, with a thematic use of text to represent institutional bureaucracy.

With this series (piece) I hope to inspire a contextual shift within the movement, focusing on detailed, gritty depictions of dilapidated, yet otherwise mundane, institutional objects to ~~rep~~ convey the true cost of confinement: the "object-ification" of the human being. These everyday objects are against ^A chaotic, violent, and vibrant outburst of the surrounding whirlwind meant to represent the emotional turmoil of the institutionalized self.

About this piece (cont). The creation of One Minute Remaining required a multitude of institutional infractions to complete. These ^{include} ~~are~~ but are not limited to 1. Destruction of State property: Cutting and prepping a MDJC pillowcase for use as a Canvas. 2. Misuse of State property: Use of ^(housing) Unit paint and the layering of daily itineraries into makeshift canvass. 3. illegal loaning & Borrowing (acquiring acrylic paint and brushes used in this piece. 4. Violation of posted Rules: Creation and use of ~~reverse~~ ^{contraband} light source to continue painting after "lights out."

(Cont on attached page)

Artist Statement (cont) (I ^{*}authorize any edits or reductions necessary ^{*} for space or convenience.)

Bi Line:

In addition to being an artist and inmate I'm also a writer and the creator/host of the groundbreaking Notes From the Pen podcast, with listeners in 108 countries and closing in on half-a-million streams. Most recently I was selected as an inaugural member of PEN America's forthcoming Incarcerated Writers Bureau. My work has been featured or is forthcoming in the Rumpus, Hunger Mountain, Schuylkill Valley Journal, the VAM PCAP Anthologies, the Doug Stanhope Podcast, the Joe Rogan Experience and elsewhere. I am currently serving a twelve year prison sentence for involuntary manslaughter which occurred during a failed ~~suicide~~ suicide attempt in 2013.

About the

Piece (cont)

For years I've used my daily itineraries as makeshift notepads. I've saved these documents for years in the hopes they'd some day serve as daily journal entries for my time in prison. When I took up painting again they found their way into my work, first as fortification for my pillowcase canvases. They quickly emerged as novel backdrops integrated into the actual pieces. In the process of adhering and coating these reworked notepads with Gesso the ^{colored} ink from the ~~colored~~ gel pens began to smear with the brush strokes, creating a psychedelic illusion out of my ~~thoughts~~ ^{daily} musings. A literal stroke of luck.

Moments of my incarceration, scrawled across daily itineraries, have become the literal foundation of my artistic rebellion. I can think of no better example of Oppressionism in action. If you look closely in some of the lighter colors in and around the telephones, you can make out some of the thoughts that crossed my mind.

during an otherwise nondescript day in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The pricing of this piece is not meant to reflect its current value, but to expose the financial burden placed on inmates and their families. This is the exact amount I'd have to get in order to make a one cent, after the State of Michigan and the Department of Corrections takes their cut for court costs restitution imposed at sentencing.

~~✱~~ I realize this is a rather "lengthy" Artist Statement, I give full permission to edit, redact, or summarize the needed sections or content... Do your thing! ~~✱~~

Thank you for your time & effort to support us in our creative endeavors... You're a bunch of goddamn saints!

Sincerely

B.C. Kim!