

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

Artist Name: Darvan Ainsworth 602642 (Juan)

My name is Darvan Lee Ainsworth and the Piece I'm Submitting is apart of a Series called (Playing for Freedom.) I do one of these paintings Every year and the closer I get to getting out the chains on the Man will loosen up until my last year where the chess game will be over and I'm walking out the Door.

To who ever is reading this I just want the world to know that Art saved my life. My body ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> locked up but every day when I pick up my Paint Brush I'm free. God has given me a Gift and with that I Do my Best to Give back. I'm currently working on a painting of the Kids killed in the Oxford Michigan School Shooting, and have done work and donated art to people who lost loved ones, And other stories I've seen on the news trying to have my Art bring joy to people weather I know them or not. If you like my work you can check out my FaceBook Page (Darvan Lee Ainsworth) or my Instagram (Juan's Art spot) and follow me and commit on Previous or future paintings. Follow me on Instagram and help me Show the world that not Every Person that incarcerated are Evil. Myself as well as many others are all about creation instead of Destruction.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.