

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

Artist Name: ANDREW FARLEY

This year has been a "new" year for me. I came out this year as a gay man. It was a truly painful yet freeing experience. When I came out, most of the people I had considered friends and brothers deserted me (including the Christian community - of which I was the leader - here at SRF). But, I found a new group of brothers in the LGBTQ2SIA community. This year brought me real love and taught me the truth of both pain and love. I learned of the two sides of people (the pure and the putrid), but above all I learned to love, accept, and appreciate a part of me that I had denied, resisted, and rejected my entire life. I now live wholly and authentically: a Black Gay Christian man. My focus for this has been love, and what wonderful love it is!! Therefore it has become the theme for my art this year. I hope that those who view or purchase my art can feel, experience, and own that love.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.