

Artist Statement: 27th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

Artist Name: Lynette Pontius 408192

#1 112379 I read the book Van Gogh & the artists he loved earlier this year. I became fascinated with him & the way his artistic mind worked. He had a gift of taking other artists & painting them how he seen them. I found myself looking at his work for hours, seeing them from my perspective, feeling my own despair & instability.

I turned the page to Eternity's Gate one day, read the story and immediately knew this painting was a picture of me. From the loss of my brother earlier this year to believing my destiny was this uniform, the painting moved me. I chose not to use my prison #, just my Birthdate, since that is when it all started. Since I can remember - This painting is me.

#2 This painting is how I saw/imagined Van Gogh after watching Lust for Life. He was unstable, explosive, and even cut off his own ear. Literally part Joker, part Vincent.

It makes ~~me~~ me sad that he never was able to see how sought after his work is - or the value placed on his pieces. He was brilliant. Painting this was a difficult process some days. There were times I felt like I was painting myself.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.