

Artist Statement — 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

Artist Name: Ink Addict 19XX

I've been a tattoo artist for over 13 years and I wanted to incorporate that into my artwork - I typically do entirely free-hand work that's entirely original without any stencils or reference photos so I can better express myself through my artwork. I am very big on artistry and originality, I don't believe everyone in life is the same so artwork shouldn't be either. There's many forms of art to express every aspect about our culture and this is mine. Doing tattoos is very frowned upon in prison and against the rules so I occasionally draw to support myself. When I do I use whatever is available to me at the time. I'd like to continue my work once I'm released because over the last several years the tattoo industry has become more prevalent as tattoos are now widely accepted. I thank you for taking your time to look at my artwork and inquire about me -

- Mike