

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

Artist Name: Joseph Beels

In early 2019 I learned the First Movement of Haydn's Piano Concerto no. 11 in D Major, Hob. XVIII/11. Instead of performing with an orchestra I was sentenced to prison. My recording of that piece can be found on www.youtube.com. In 2015 I graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. My concentrations were Painting and Printmaking. Creating artwork in prison is a way to escape. Learning the Haydn was an important step in my progress as a musician. Someday I hope to play Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto. Practicing my drawing while I am here is a way to keep my mind occupied on something productive. I sit at my prison desk, listen to Rachmaninoff playing his own piano concertos, and practice my drawing. By doing this I am able to achieve my soul's freedom and escape the prison walls. The first drawing is of items on my prison desk. The second drawing is of figures from "Bridgman's Life Drawing". Practicing my artwork and studying music history and theory has helped me remain positive and optimistic about my future.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.