

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

Artist Name: Charles G. Brooks, Sr.

Where I come from, prison isn't necessarily seen as a negative thing. From various perspectives, prison is a part of everyday life. We are sons, friends, cousins, grandchildren, Uncles, nephews, daughters, nieces, Aunts, fathers, Mothers of people in prison. When you throw a ball, it goes where you are looking. I spent a vast amount of time looking inside prison fences, literally and metaphorically. After an initial 53 year sentence, an appeal made possible by Peter Van Heek and the U of M Innocence Project, and an intense introspective reckoning of my soul, I am at a point where all I do is look out of these fences. Most days it is my happy place. Everyday it is an opportunity to pursue the things I laid down in my pursuit of urban legend. Every hour it is the blessing of being able to impart the things I learned to those I see on the same path I once traveled. This piece is a physical representation of who I was, before crime, and who I'm striving to be, post crime. Share all thoughts on Instagram: FreeThoughtsIncarceratedMan. Enjoy.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.