

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

Artist Name: Matthew Sallady

Hi, my name is Matt and I'm 50 years old. I'm in the middle of a four year sentence for drinking and driving. I'm currently housed at the Newberry facility in the V.P. and I pass a lot of my time drawing.

It's pretty neat what you can accomplish with a pencil and nothing else to do. There are a lot of pitfalls in prison life. To avoid these I immerse myself into artwork. I'm especially interested in and enjoy the process of doing portraits. From a blank piece of paper, to blocking in shapes and shadows, and adding highlights and lowlights, it's fun to watch a piece come to life.

Most of my projects I send home as gifts. I also do work for other guys in here, usually portraits of their kids or wives or girlfriends. The currency in prison is largely store food items, and making art in exchange for peanut butter and coffee brings whole new meaning to the term, "starving artist".

Whatever the reason for creating, the goal is always the same; to evoke thought or emotion. Whether it's pride, speculation, or nostalgia. Whether it's positive or negative. Art should make you feel. As I write this, the PCAP team has not yet made its selections for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual show. And I'm not sure which, if any of my work will be accepted. But if you are reading this, then I probably have the honor of you viewing my art. I hope that it affects you.