

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

Artist Name: Carsten

The year 2022 has been one huge rough patch. Yet it was just another year in this long stretch of trials and tribulations. Between the impossibility to get art supplies in this shortage economy, getting found guilty of having Covid and the associated 4 moves, the 5 new bunkies, and a plethora of lockdowns, shakedown, and ERT cell destructions I was unable to create anything for 7 months. But by June I finally got into a situation and mindset that allowed me to embrace my creative process and outlet again.

This year I tried something different, it seems I always do. I expanded on the paper roll idea, literally expanding them from $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $4\frac{1}{2}$ ", going truly 3-D. I always look to do something new, something different because I fear that not moving forward is alike to stepping backward. To me the measuring, marking, cutting, and rolling of the paper strips by hand is relaxing and meditative. I find peace in the process and am able to completely submerge myself in it. Most often I can only hope that the ideas in my head translate through my arms and fingers onto the paper into the image I had envisioned. So many things have to go right and fall into place just so for the image and message to emerge from the paper and reveal itself. I am constantly on a journey to uncover that collection of shapes that encompass meaning. My art helps me to forget my surroundings for hours at a time and imagine myself a real person again.

And because I couldn't do that on many occasions in the past year, it has been a challenging 2022.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.