

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

Artist Name: Rick Spooner

This past year found me doing several self-expression pieces of art, in addition to my pieces which I hope to evoke memories for those who view it. Pieces, like "Redeemed", "Broken Promises", "Past Life", "Visitor", "Portrait of Dad" and "Studio Life", all have a similar theme of remorse, remembering a past life, that was good before becoming incarcerated, as well as the possibility of redemption, as I seek to discover how to spend the rest of my years.

"Redeemed" is a portrait of a discarded dollhead, which once was loved by a little girl. Often, behind bars, we feel like our family and friends have forgotten the good times we had and discarded us. In "Portrait of Dad", I try to employ a bit of humor, as you don't see the face, typically expected in a portrait, just the legs sticking out from under the old truck. This is how I remember my dad, as he was a car mechanic. "Broken Promises" says it all. All the broken pieces of my life are due to my breaking trust that my family once had in me to do good and not harm them. "Past Life" and "Studio Life", are reminders of better days. When I had honor from serving my country as a Warrant Officer and had my own art studio in the finished basement of our house. "Reeled In" and "Crappie Fishin" remind me of times spent fishing as a young boy in Washington state and vacations our family would take to Minnesota. Ending on a Patriotic note "Old Glory" displays the pride that I feel as an American, with hopes that more countries could enjoy the freedoms we too often take for granted.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.