

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

Artist Name: Nissa "Stax" G

I've always believed that art should cause some kind of emotion within the person or people that are viewing or experiencing it. ~~It could be~~ It could be happiness, sadness, peace, remorse or many other feelings that a great ~~piece~~ work of art brings to its onlooker - with any of my paintings I try to share the emotions and feelings I have at the time I'm creating them with whomever is going to see them. ~~I started~~ I started painting when I returned from a 15 month tour of duty <sup>served</sup> in Iraq - I remember the very second in my life that I decided to enlist in the U.S. Army, I was in tenth grade social studies class when the phone rang and our teacher turned on the tv - as I watched in astonishment as the second plane ripped thru the 2nd tower, every fiber in my being knew what I was meant to do - as soon as I graduated in 2003 I enlisted in the army ~~and~~ By 2005 after training at Fort Sam I was a

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Field Combat MEDIC with the 62ND medical brigade - I was then Stationed at Fort Lewis-McCord in Washington State until the call came for my platoon to Deploy and TO fight in OIF "Operation Iraqi Freedom" Being OVER there and being a medic I saw & heard things No person should EVER have to - then ONE Day my platoon was ambushed a piece of shrapnel from an I.E.D shot thru my lower back causing Vertebra & Discs to Explode on impact - so I was Granted an honorable Medical Discharge - ~~later~~ For years after that my P.T.S.D. was unmanageable Nothing worked - until I picked up a paint brush - Painting saved my life - I have included a few Nature Scen~~es~~es that I hope will ENVOKE peace within the VIEWERS - ALSO IVE INCLUDED ~~a~~ a painting of the Moment that Decided my Future for me - its a painting of the Day they took the twin towers - AND I hope this piece brings Remembrance to that Day & the people lost - NEVER FORGET

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