

Artist Name: [REDACTED]

These two pieces constitute the culmination of all the work I've done over the last ten years. I began drawing and painting a couple of years after coming to prison with a devotion I gave to studying music much earlier in my life. Prior to that time I merely doodled. I started in graphite and went directly into watercolor with very little experience in acrylic or oil. Watercolor and graphite are so far my favorite mediums.

I'm now at the end of my incarceration and I submit these two as a final exam, of sorts, on the progress I've made in my self-driven curriculum of the previous eight years of steady study and practice; and also a milestone for my future art journey, which has recently included wood sculpture as a result of joining the Carpentry department.

The Segovia piece is interesting to me because the composition included three distinct periods of civilization; the Roman era aqueducts, pre-industrial buildings and transport along with post industrial buildings and transports. The use of graphite & charcoal allowed me to make the contrast in light a central feature of the piece; the shadows cast by the aqueducts on the street, buildings and walls & stairs (also Roman) in the background.

The Beached Boat is a loose allegory of my time in prison. I have lived and worked around water (Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean) all my life. The beach represents prison, the water freedom, and I'm the boat, weathered and worn but serviceable, about to be cast back into the water for use again. Watercolor is my favorite and primary medium. I'm always looking for a way to create simple, poignant compositions and color palettes for my watercolors. I work primarily in landscapes, always focusing on a single simple focal point.