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ARTIST STATEMENT

Art took some unexpected turns for me this year. I took a poetry class through my college honors colloquial, and began writing various poems for my artworks. Poetry is completely new for me, and I never realized how much additional creativity could be gamered from the combination of these two art forms. I wrote several poems for paintings this past year. Also, I never really desired to compose a prison scene. However, after some prodding, I relented and made my first one, titled 'Crossroads'. Crossroads is completed in oil and contains a poem on the back which illuminates some of the emotions that went into creating the piece. Shortly thereafter came a second prison scene, 'Abandoned'. Abandoned is also in oil; it is a bit more abstract, and comes from a deeper emotional place after I experienced the department's version of 'Potters Field', located in Jackson. The inmates in the cemetery appeared to be abandoned by society as well as their loved ones. The old prison in the painting is abandoned, as are the ghosts in the doorways. The feeling of abandonment in prison is quite prevalent, and I did my best to visually articulate that. Abandoned contains a short haiku on the back.

'Beyond the North forty' is my first winter scene, and also the first painting fully composed in concert with a poem. Neither the painting nor the poem turned out like I had imagined either of them would finish, yet it was a fun and fulfilling endeavor.

I had a few other firsts as well this year, including a fully abstract piece, a still life with flowers, and a painting on stretched canvas. It was a fun year and I'm looking forward to graduating from Calvin U. in May '26, and (hopefully) having more time to create. Thank you for looking!

Terry Stineback

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