

ARTIST STATEMENT -- 30th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

ARTIST NAME: Chris-Gau

I joined an art class at Thumb Correctional Facility last year called The Start of Art. The students in the class learned the basics of drawing and making art. I was able to learn a lot from these fellow inmates, such as various drawing and coloring techniques, and various art designs. Then I saw the PCAP institutional video, and was encouraged by these students to participate in PCAP this year. That is what has inspired me to create these four pieces of art that I have submitted.

IMPERFECTION

When I first started art class I would draw flowers, then I would show my friends that I liked what I had been working on. They would give me pointers, and mentor me on how to shade and color my art work so that it looked more professional.

As I progressed and became good at art, I was asked what will I be drawing for PCAP? I said, I'm going to draw one of the flowers that is in front of our unit. One of my friends was a nay sayer, and told me that PCAP is not going to want a picture of that. I told him oh well I will still draw it, and let the individuals from the program decide that.

I named this art piece IMPERFECTION, because life is imperfect. The process of creating this piece was through trial and error, it was imperfect. Even the place where the flower had grown and planted was imperfect, prison itself. However life is imperfect, and this is what make it so beautiful, special, and worth living.

MOSAIC ILLUSIONS

As I was speaking with a friend at work, I was expressing how I would like to learn more about art and the various styles of art. My coworker then asked me if I had ever heard of illusion art. I told him no, and he told me that is the genre of art he does, and he would bring me some to see. He showed me some of his art work and I was impressed, it inspired me to create this piece of art.

MOSAIC ILLUSIONS is about work that I enjoy doing, interior design. Therefore I incorporated illusion art into my interior designs. I found illusion art fascinating, because the longer you look at the art, the more it changes and create new images.

INVISIBLE ENEMY

As I began to develop my drawing skills in art class, we were taught about vanishing points, and perspective in our art work. These topics inspired me to create this piece of art work.

I named this piece INVISIBLE ENEMY, because in modern times the world is full of technology, and political uncertainty. There is a lot of unknowns and ignorance around us, and this can make it hard to understand whom or what we are truly fighting against. A lot of the time it can be difficult to see the enemy that we are truly up against, and this is why we find ourselves struggling.

OUT OF AFRICA

This final piece is cultural, I thought I should have at least one piece that express my heritage and residual culture to the audience.

OUT OF AFRICA is a sign of good luck. In Africa the stork represent good luck, and I also chose to leave this art work in black and white to show an image of simplicity in life. However most of the time as humans, we choose to overcomplicate things in life. We usually allow our egos to get the best of us and desire to rise above each other.