

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

Artist Name: Christopher Newhall

Given the number of American volunteers going to fight in the Ukraine, I was reminded of another time in history when Americans did the same. The Flying Tigers were an American Volunteer Group in China to fend off the Japanese invasion prior to Pearl Harbor. I'm a huge history buff and a veteran. Last year I submitted a 1940 Ford Coupe all in graphite. This year, I wanted to expand on what I've learned and try color. Several professional artists have their work in some of the history books I read and they have inspired me to try my hand at aircraft. I am definitely not Jim Louvier or Sam Willie. It took me a number of times to get the angles correct and I'm not certain if I used the correct markings, but I tried to get to look like 1941 before the U.S. declared war on 8 Dec. The day after Pearl Harbor. This aircraft, I believe, would've belonged to the 23rd FG out of Kunming, China. Their only base at the time. Who flew, if anyone flew #77 is beyond me. How many times this type of plane has been rendered, I don't believe can be counted, but the American and Chinese volunteers who flew those planes were true heroes.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.