

Lawrence Dantzer-Bey

161-20, 162-20

The Jamaican King, Arrested Development

My love for art came from my mother. I drew a picture for my mother at 8. She called all 7 of my siblings to the living room and showed them my drawing and said, "Look what my baby drew for me." My siblings loved my drawing skills. My mother then said, "Come here baby and let momma give you a kiss." That was the sweetest kiss I ever received. When I discovered that my drawings brought joy to my mother, I have been drawing ever since. — I have been incarcerated since I was 18 and is now 53. I met a master artist in 1993 named Sam Allen who taught me how to paint. I could never speak about my success without honoring my mother and Sam. I pray that I've made both of them proud.