

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

Artist Name: Isaac Fezzey

I was arrested at 21, as naive as anyone that age, no skills to speak of, no real passions. I then got lucky enough to have a cellmate who was learning to draw. I saw his progress, his happiness as he worked, and wondered if maybe I could figure out the trick of putting mental images to paper. All this during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Without that horrible virus, I'd never have experienced the soothing sounds of pencils and pastels on paper, the joy of pigments spreading as I desire, the satisfaction of a piece starting to take shape, or the awe as an image takes on a life of its own and evolves in front of me. Talk about a silver lining, eh? Now, if/when I'm released, I'd like to have portraiture and tattoo design as a side job, if I can't do it full-time, maybe even learning to tattoo my own art. My future finally feels bright, now that I've found one of my life's loves.

Please edit your Artist Statement to fit the space provided.