

Artist Statement — 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons

Artist Name: KG

This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year incarcerated, and my 6<sup>th</sup> year submitting to the PCAP exhibition. This year has been an eventful one for me; I turned 50, my glasses got thicker, and after 27 years, I'm now divorced. I also moved from Chippewa Correctional to Kinross, effectively upending what bit of normalcy that I had in my days. The only constant that I've been able to hold onto is this show.

This year I flexed my creative muscles. I only use No. 2 pencils in here - it's one of my survival tactics, ensuring that I will never be without art supplies. I don't really consider what I do as just drawing, though. It's more like I am painting with graphite. While I didn't expand from that medium, I did push myself out of my comfort zone with my styles, topics and image sizes. Though I likely will not be submitting any of them, I began drawing anime-style pieces. My oldest child - which she's no child anymore at 26 years old - was fascinated by that style of drawing, and her skill puts any of my art to shame. But I feel a sort of connection with her when I draw in that style.

I want to thank you all for coming to the 30<sup>th</sup> annual PCAP show. It really does mean more than you can possibly understand. Most of the time in here, I feel like a number - forgotten by the world. I feel like this show gives me a chance to reach out to the world and make contact. My eyes are giving out (I wear an eyepatch, effectively taking me down to one) but as long as I can see I will continue submitting to this wonderful project.

I Hope you Enjoy this year's show!