

Artist Statement: 26th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

Artist Name: Christopher Hemwall

My name is Chris. People call me "Hemi." I'm 32 yrs old and served 6 1/2 yrs in the Army before I medically retired after getting shot and ultimately ended up losing my leg over it. I've been using drawing to take my mind off things while I wait on my attorney and my appeal. I'm learning how to blend colored pencils. I'm just starting to get into paint which is a completely different ballgame. Covid has shut down our art program here for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year now. I'm a big car guy and I make money in here through my job, what my family and friends send me and by drawing cars in here for other guys. A lot of men in here will have to wait a long time to even get a chance to see their dream car in person; let alone drive or own it. And some will never even be free at all. I get a bag of coffee, and they get a 10x14 to hide a just a little piece of concrete. Anyways, this is one of my dream cars. I was getting advice from another artist and he said submit it to PCAP. Next year, I'll hope to have a portrait, longer art, and hopefully a better grasp on colored pencils and paint. I took a gen ed art class when I got my degree at Eastern Michigan but it wasn't nearly enough. I just need to keep working on it until I'm more comfortable with it.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.