

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

Artist Name: Roemello "Mello" Boseman

I've been drawing since I was 10 years old and have always enjoyed it. That being said, I've only started to get serious about it in the last 10 years. Being 27, at around 17 I really started being able to conceptualize the themes and genres that mean the most to me, or intrigue me. Most of my artwork is considered "dark," or "Morbid" due to the fact that I blend, or try to blend, Beauty/Life with Darkness/Death. Seeing the Darkness in beauty, or the Beauty in darkness is important to me when searching for inspiration, and it shows. Being a tattoo artist, I draw a lot of my inspiration from past and present artists of the same kind, and the progression from simple, traditional work from the past, to the illustrative/realistic work that is prevalent today. "The price of Agony" is a blend of my influences in art, and music at the time of its conception. I hope it lets you see the contrasting, yet similar themes of life and death the way I did when I created it.

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.