

## Freedom's Flight

Cat# 24-05-89-1D

A gallon of glue and paper with popsicle sticks ~ 6 months

A 3d Sculpture with detachable wings and base for easier transportation and storage.

A project that has taking me a full <sup>year-</sup>in the planning and creation. Symbolistic, this eagle represents a freedom of flight much like the old saying; "free as a bird"

This art work was made using a lot of glue and paper products including wood craft sticks. the larger size was a slight error in that I made the head of the eagle first and did not realize the scale to match it would be needed. I used my many years as a teen building RC flying model aircraft to fashion and engineer a solid, balanced art piece using aircraft construction. The wings are detachable and are rugged. This sculpture weighs around 15 – 20 lbs. and has a rugged resin like feel to the surface. I chose to paint with both acrylic and oil paints and applied 3-4 coats of matt varnish to seal and protect it. the eyes and talons were coated with a heavy gloss gel to give it the shiny wet look in the eyes and talons.

The body and wings are constructed using chocolate box like mat board that I filled with glue and paper to provide a harden piece. Each of the longer feathers on the wing have wood tongue depressor sticks place inside of them acting as spines to prevent bending or warping over the many years. Most all of the construction used a process where I mix a talcum powder and glue along with modeling paste to create a Plaster of Paris like material that is coated on the tissue and paper to harden.

The Talons were made of paperclips fashioned and coated. The wooden craft sticks were glued and wrapped heavily with nylon thread impregnated with the paste making it rock hard.

The base or stand is made using a few rocks I found digging in the garden and cleaned up. It was Constructed using tissue and glue produces to fashion a tree stump. And I filled the reinforced base with gravel to give it weight to hold the sculpture in place without tipping over. Again I used my chocolate box construction to form this.

This project took every bit of 200 hours to make. I started it in September 2024 and finished it in February 2025. The staff and inmates have never seen this level of work before and I really hope your impressed with piece!

Thank you so much for your support!



*"For Artists; It's the love of the Labor!"*



## **Juvenile Lifer, Then & Now**

Cat# 25-02-94-25C

18x24 Oil on Hand Stretched Canvas 140 hours

Using (2) stretchers, I used 15 oz. duck canvas to hand stretch, which I carefully applied.

This years offering is a rework and inspiration of Gorbert Gustave's 1808 "The Stonebreakers". Each year for the last several years, I have selected a fine art piece to demonstrate my resistance to Michigan's Prison system. I completely reworked this to portray my views to demonstrate how we sometimes don't realize that there is such a thing as too much prison time.

In this work, I was struck by the back story around the original, how it was rejected in its time for its content because the elites felt it portrayed the suffering of the homelessness in France. An embarrassment they did not like. The original painting was lost in Nazi Germany sometime in 1940's during the war...

With the stack of straw being used as a cushion for the older man on his knee, and the young youth straining lifting and moving the basket of rocks to the wheel barrel, it was a challenge to set an atmosphere or pain and suffering under work. Looming in the background, the unmistakable sight of a large prison building with its roof water-tower.

**If it grabs at you with a gasp of OMG, then I've done my job. Please make a comment. ☺**

Hands down, there is no other state that takes a minor, tries them as adults and seeks out forever sentences like Michigan did. I say did, because only in the last several years has the US Supreme Court ruled and ordered states that they must be resentenced to a number of years, NOT LIFE. Its considered cruel and unusual punishment.

In this painting, I replace the subjects clothing to that of our Prison garb. Instead of showing two separate individuals, I hint in the title that this is one person as he was when he was a teen and as he is now. My message in this is simple, **Perpetual Punishment**. I want to shock those viewers in the blatant cruelty time has on prisoners. No one really sits back and see the impact that decades of punishment has on us. The food gets worse, the law makers shortsighted political gains to "be tough on crime" is torturous. We either work or were punished. In short its slavery, 95% will be paroled and return back to Michigan to live out our lives. While we no longer "break-stones" I use this as a metaphor to show the public that even prisoners in their 60's, 70's and 80's are still made to work regardless of their pain and age. It's kicking a dead horse after decades of punishment and its morally and horribly wrong.

Despite what the public is told about how these men are forever broken by the judges and police; The facts are in, its just not true at all. Yes, there are those that should never see the gates, but in most men, they simple age out of the ability or drive to harm or hurt after years of prison.

I hope you enjoy this work. Thank you so much for your support!



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## The Sardine Fleet

Cat# 25-07-99-3D

Charcoal and Graphite Fixed and Varnished on  
Professional Strathmore paper with Mat Frame.

A recreation of an actual photo taken in 1951. The incredible contrasting effect of silhouette fisherman and the early morning fog with the stillness of the water is striking.

I could not resist the temptation or the challenge to drawing this with charcoal and graphite on a large scale.

The image invokes a perceived quietness. The group of men in their small boats, fishing as a team to haul in the fishing nets together to provide for their families still ring true today.

This is a great example of freedom that most take for granted. I could almost image the quietness of the water in the early morning fog, the smells of the water and fish mixed with the fog filling one's senses. It brings me to a memory of an early time when I was on the conning tower of a submarine in the middle of the night, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, under the moon with nobody in in sight. Utter isolation...

This work was fixed and then sealed with a high gloss acrylic varnish that further deepened the shadows giving more depth.

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