Sense of Place:
Art from Oregon’s Prisons

Exhibit: February 6 - March 19, 2023
Closing Reception: March 9, 2023
EMU
Sense of Place is a creative exhibition of the artwork created by over 20 artists who are incarcerated in prisons across the state of Oregon. In recognition of the incredible talent of these artists, the University of Oregon Prison Education Program and the EMU Center for Student Involvement Visual Arts Team have worked in conjunction to exhibit their work to the outside world. We are deeply grateful to these artists for donating their work for all of us to view, ponder, and enjoy.

Each piece has a survey linked on the title. Please take a moment and give feedback to our artists inside. We will be creating a post-show brochure for our inside artists which will include photos of the exhibit and feedback from the community. After sending their art to us months ago, any thoughts you have to share with our artists will be truly meaningful. Please feel free to distribute this presentation with your community and share about the gallery in the EMU, we greatly appreciate as much feedback on the art as possible.

Sense of Place will be on display at the EMU’s Adell McMillan Gallery February 6 - March 19 with a closing reception on March 9. All are welcome.
Osiyo! Greetings!

As an Indigenous Being from Turtle Island, this submission is nothing short of a “Sense of Place” for me. This Canadian goose mini fan, represents to me, the local Native ancestors who lived on this very land, where I am incarcerated. Who were wiped out by the white settlers, “progress” and by the state and federal government. They may be gone, but they are forever here, just as these goose feathers cover our yard...... year after year, after year.

Wado (Thank you)

Nvwadohiyada (Harmony & peace to you)
Untitled
by Cannon
To Be Seen
By Cannon
Consumption / Creation

by Sofia

I sought to capture my daily plight without diving into a physical representation. Prison, day-in-and-out, is so monotonous. Let us journey onwards towards a metaphysical look at “Justice” - to paint grey with grey.

Nihilism proves to be a tremendous survival tool while deprived of liberty.
Shattered
By Cannon
My mission is to bring happiness and joy to my customers with quality products. I use my skills of jewelry making to improve those lives around me. By donating a portion of my proceeds to Feed The Children Organization and Domestic Violence Programs. From my heart to try to help stop the pain it causes to the loved ones involved. Together, we know that Love, Hope, and Faith. Will work.
For Your Entertainment

by Cannon
Time in Space

by Les

The submitted artwork name “Time in Space” is of an abstract painting that was inspired by the early 19th century abstract artists. Abstract art always fascinated me and to paint an abstract for the first time revealed to me that the patterns and shapes are of geometric form and function, all components of abstract style of artwork.
Untitled

by Brandon
Untitled

by Sam
Untitled
Anonymous
Boo
by Barry
Untitled
Untitled
Destination Unknown
by Brandon
My Representation of the theme “Sense of Place” is connected to the place “within,” as opposed to the place “without” and includes the past, present, and the future. The owl represents wisdom and intellect. These are traits that I strive for (the future). To represent the gangster lifestyle that I lived as a young man, I chose the image of Bill the Butcher from the movie “Gangs of New York.” He wore a top hat and a three piece suit (the past). So, the owl represents a past lifestyle and a future pursuit. For me, the axe represents strength as well as caution and the hourglass is my present place - doing time. I believe this drawing is an accurate depiction of my own personal “Sense of Place”.
The Heaviness of My Present
by Mauricio

Please note the monochromatic blue of my painting, which of course represents the oppressive “prison blue” coloration that is found inside the walls of this prison. The hooded figure standing before the prison wall and gun tower is me - unsmiling and brooding over where I, through my flawed decisions, placed myself. The woman’s face, with her soft cheek pressed against a broken clock, represents all of the women who love me - mother, wife, sisters, daughters - for whom time is frozen as they wait for me to return. The shackled hands holding the mirror represent what I see reflected everywhere in this place wherein I live: steel bars, prison cells, confinement. Everything I see in this painting represents the heaviness of what I have brought upon myself... and upon those who love me. But it also represents all that I wish to leave behind by way of changing my values, my decisions, and my way of life.
Untitled

by Britt
Functional Art (Moccasins)

by Michael

We are all one with nature and earth, even those of us incarcerated. It’s up to us all to nurture, grow and utilize all our natural resources to the best of our ability and if we can appease the artistic senses in us all at the same time, so much the better.
Untitled
by Britt
Untitled

by Britt
Untitled
by Britt
Drowning

by Cannon
Untitled
by Britt
Learned to draw in the county jail awaiting sentencing. Over the years art has shown me a lot of grace and beauty in an otherwise bitter and ugly world. My pieces are pieces of myself, spilled and drilled into paper, canvas, and skin and anything else I can get my hands on in here.

Lately I’ve been learning to add motion and emotion to each piece. My focus can be a little intense and often creates some intimacy with the work. As I grow, I learn and hope to never stop. Hopefully my art evokes feeling, reactions and thoughts. After all these years, it feels like I just started.
Key 2 Justice
Anonymous
Untitled

by Pedro
Untitled

by Charles
Transitional Justice

by Jeffrey
Untitled
by Britt
Mi Vida Loca -
Cassie’s Rebirth
by Omar

I LIVE TO CREATE, & I CREATE WHAT I FEEL
Untitled

by Rick White Eagle
Untitled
by Britt
Untitled
by Omar
Jaded
by Omar

I LIVE TO CREATE, & I CREATE WHAT I FEEL
Clutch Purses (I)

by Jimmie
Clutch Purses (II)

by Jimmie
Functional Art

by Michael
Untitled

by Britt