

Q] Do they feel that their artwork helps them cope with the situation that they are in?

A] Absolutely. It does not matter who you are, or how strong-of-mind you think you are, when you are locked up where you spend multiple hours in a room, you have to find some way to occupy your mind or "time" will take its toll on your mental faculties. If you do not believe me, try this. Every day for just one week, after school, go home and have someone lock you inside your bathroom with the only entertainment is a small t.v. and a walkman type radio. Have your meals brought to you. No one to talk to. Nothing to read. No art materials. I would say that after only one week you will begin to see the importance of keeping your mind occupied. Well imagine doing that week after week, month after month, year after year. I can tell you that art is one of the best coping mechanisms available.

Q] Do they try to express their emotions through their works of art?

A] Thank you for this question. Yes, I do try to put emotion in my artwork. But the reason I thank you for this question is because we are preparing for an exhibit in New York this coming September. I am doing five paintings depicting the various stages in my life from childhood, to adulthood, to prison, changes in prison and even my own death. I have been trying to think about what events I would depict in my paintings but your question made me realize that it is not "events" in my life that I want to depict, so thanks to you I am not depicting any particular events in my life but I will attempt to depict the emotions I felt during the various stages of my life. So again, thanks.

I asked my students to write questions they had for you. They are somewhat familiar with some of the things we've worked on together and have had the opportunity to see the website. Three out of four students asked questions. Here they are.

I hope you will have time to answer them by tomorrow night. I can then pick them up when I come in and get them back by Friday.

Thanks.

Question 1) Is there anything you would've done differently a second time around, such as actions leading up to the event or having acted differently which could have prevented you from the initial occurrence? If so Why? Why Not? *stay in school and away from drugs as best I could*

Question 2) If you weren't incarcerated at the moment what would you be doing in terms of work? *Realestate Broker, Remodeling and restoration of Real property*

1. What was it that motivated you to do whatever it was that landed you on death row?

Stupidity

2. If given the choice of life in prison with no possibility of parole or death, which would you choose?

~~1. With the project that they are working on, would they say it is something they would recommend to someone in a similar situation?~~

~~2. Has the project helped get them through tough times?~~

1. The projects I have worked on I would strongly ~~re~~ recommend for someone in my situation. It has been awesome discovering my inner-self and I have found beauty in all this ugliness. I was told as a child I was worthless Art and art projects has help me to find my selfworth

2. Often stress is overwhelming I've been on deathrow for 30 years day in day out waiting to be killed. Art has been my pressure valve to relieving stress

involved an adult black male - selling
intoxicants to fourteen and what appeared
to be fifteen year old black girls and
boys. I don't like adults abusing the
innocence of children.

2. I am not guilty as charged. I am not
saying I am not guilty of something. I
am saying, "I am not guilty as charged." Out
of five people involved, one - who was used
as state witness got twenty five years,
while the other three were never indicted.
I am still litigating my case. When the
time comes and I am still useful (towards
social reform, life in prison - I guess (?)

Barbara Students

January 15, 2015

QUALI

Questions & Answers Project

Question 1) In June of 1998 - I was diagnosed as having symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and borderline personality disorder. Treatment for these things did not occur until the year of 2000. So, based upon these psychological defects - what could have been done differently?

Question 2) I have a diploma, both in Civil Litigation (as a Paralegal) and Private Investigation. I would most likely work with a woman's group whose interest are domestic violence and rape.

1. I grew up in a domestic violence plagued home. Starting at the age of eight I was experiencing cruel and unusual punishment. I grew up angry and hating tyrants, bullies, rapists, child molesters and people who are cruel to animals. The situation that led me to death row