



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Imagining Abolition: Blood, Sweat, and Tears

The Returning Artists Guild

11/25/2025- 1/30/2026

Columbus Metropolitan Library – Main LibraryLosinski Gallery


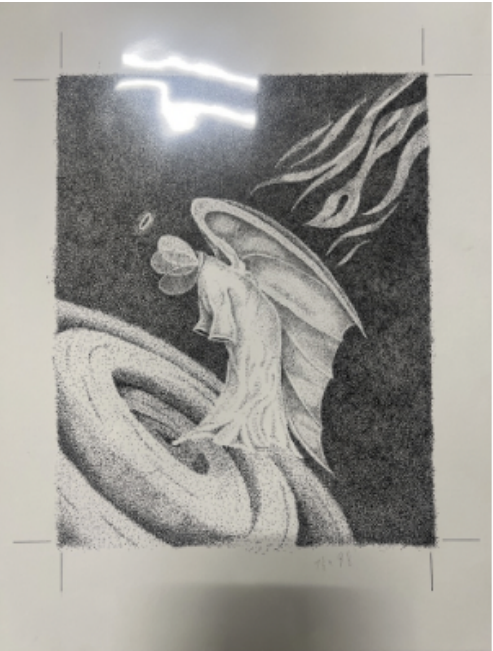

Image	Artist	Title Medium	Price
	Roe	<i>Searching: A Week of Depression</i> 2024, Watercolor, marker, and acrylic ink, 15"x20", This piece encompasses a plethora of feelings and emotions. The flower pot represents being trapped inside, without privacy, while the oversized fish and the dying flower address one's ability to thrive in a small enclosed space. The fruit tells about rotting inside, the bottle about the emptiness I experience. The war paint and eyes show me preparing for survival in an unstable environment.	\$800
	Todd	<i>Diminishing Finish</i> 2025, Airbrush on canvas, 24"x18", The checkered flag is synonymous with winning a race. This flag represents my race: endlessly and relentlessly flapping in the breeze, the checkerboard disperses as the events of my life unravel.. missed, lost, stolen. They float effortlessly to the heavens and beyond. Births, deaths, graduations, birthdays, holidays too numerous to count. I accept responsibility but if gaining freedom represents winning, how much of my flag will remain in a diminishing finish?	\$800



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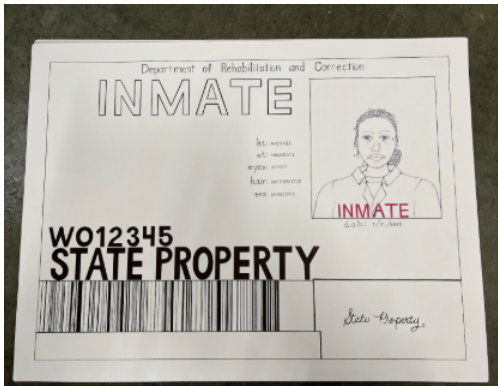




	Todd	<i>Ohio Flag</i> 2025, Airbrush on canvas, 18"x24"	\$800
	Todd	<i>Angel and the Void</i> 2010, Ink on paper, 12"x9"x1"	\$ 1000
	Mark	<i>My Space (Together Yet Alone)</i> 2025, Acrylic, 12"x24"x1" Mark is a multi-gifted artist: a singer, song writer, and poet.	\$500


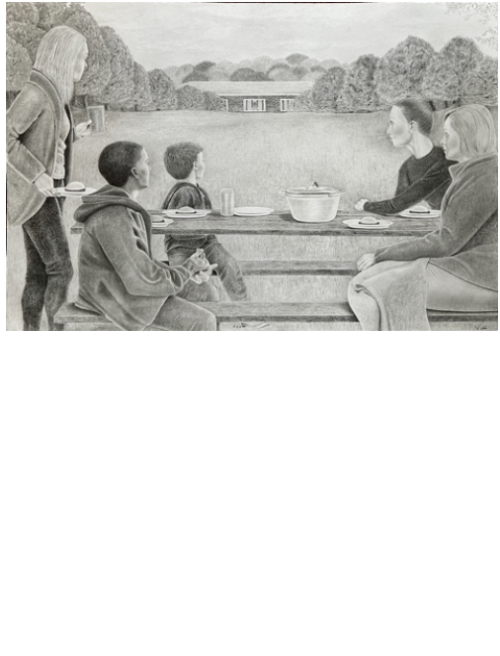




	Demarlo	<i>Girls Prison Selection</i> 2025, Ink and collage, 24" x 18"	\$400
	Demarlo	<i>State Property</i> 2025, Ink on paper, 18" x 24"	\$400







	Terri	<i>BooBoo</i> 2023, Hand-sewn bear made from "states", 8" x 8" x 6"	NFS
	Terri	<i>Family Reunion Picnic</i> 2024, Graphite and charcoal on paper, 12"x18"x1" Terri developed her artistic talent during her lengthy incarceration to utilize her time creating gifts for loved ones as well as charitable items for women inside and those out in the community. Her obsession with attention to detail lends her to specialize in graphite and charcoal portraits. Recently, wanting to break free and express more of herself Terri has expanded her practice to include working with a variety of media and levels of abstraction.	NFS


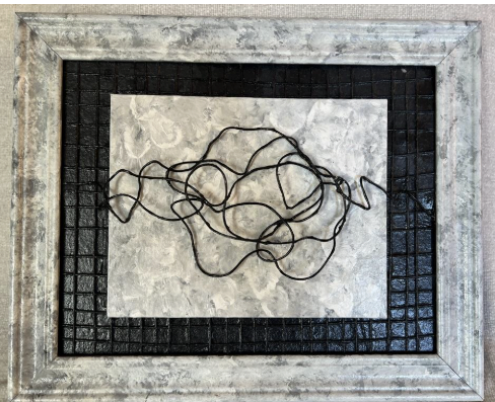




	Joy	<p><i>Worry Doll 1</i></p> <p>2024, Found object assemblage, 13" x 7" x 3"</p> <p>As a person, Joy is well traveled and enthusiastic about life. She has been incarcerated for over twenty-five years. Her hobbies include sewing and painting. She is a self-taught visual artist and enjoys abstract impressionism. Her work/art is, in general, focused on found objects, collage, assemblage, and her attempt at being heard. Joy believes when using her imagination combined with her lived experience, she can convey messages for which she cannot find words. Joy's work is wildly creative and stands on its own merit.</p>	\$300
	Joy	<p><i>Proceed with Caution</i></p> <p>2025, Broken fan, fibers, and found materials, 51" x 12" x 12"</p> <p>As a person, Joy is well traveled and enthusiastic about life. She has been incarcerated for over twenty-five years. Her hobbies include sewing and painting. She is a self-taught visual artist and enjoys abstract impressionism. Her work/art is, in general, focused on found objects, collage, assemblage, and her attempt at being heard. Joy believes when using her imagination combined with her lived experience, she can convey messages for which she cannot find words. Joy's work is wildly creative and stands on its own merit.</p>	NFS





	Joy	<p><i>Glimmer</i></p> <p>2025, Acrylic and found objects assemblage in frame, 17" x 22" x 0.5"</p> <p>As a person, Joy is well traveled and enthusiastic about life. She has been incarcerated for over twenty-five years. Her hobbies include sewing and painting. She is a self-taught visual artist and enjoys abstract impressionism. Her work/art is, in general, focused on found objects, collage, assemblage, and her attempt at being heard. Joy believes when using her imagination combined with her lived experience, she can convey messages for which she cannot find words. Joy's work is wildly creative and stands on its own merit.</p>	\$300
	Joy	<p><i>Look!</i></p> <p>2025, Acrylic and found objects assemblage in frame, 14.5" x 17.5" x 1"</p> <p>As a person, Joy is well traveled and enthusiastic about life. She has been incarcerated for over twenty-five years. Her hobbies include sewing and painting. She is a self-taught visual artist and enjoys abstract impressionism. Her work/art is, in general, focused on found objects, collage, assemblage, and her attempt at being heard. Joy believes when using her imagination combined with her lived experience, she can convey messages for which she cannot find words. Joy's work is wildly creative and stands on its own merit.</p>	\$300





Laura

Don't Worry, You'll Grow Into It

\$1000

2025, Mixed media, 12" x 9"

I create art with the intention of opening dialogue for Black & Brown women on empowerment.



Laura

Crying Beautifully


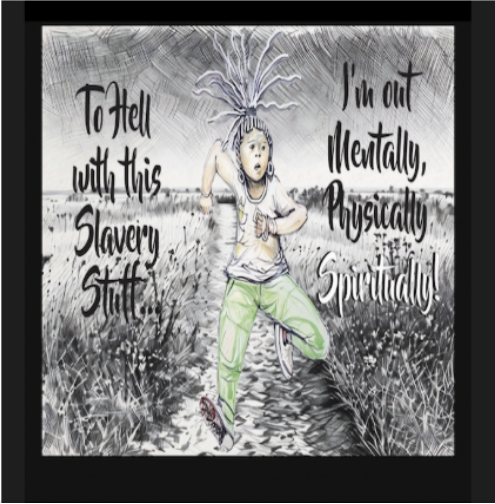
\$1000

2025, Mixed media, 12" x 9"

I create art with the intention of opening dialogue for Black & Brown women on empowerment.







	Melissa	<i>Consumed</i> 2025, Graphite and charcoal on paper, 12" x 9.5"	\$400
	Gwendolyn Garth	<i>To Hell with this Slavery Stuff...</i> 2025, Print, 18" x 11" My personal artwork explores a new form of artistic expression that questions the canon of art history's conventional attitudes towards art making. My personal artwork begins with creative journaling: recording my thoughts through art and writing and later bringing my work "Off The Pages." My personal artwork investigates the unlimited possibilities of art making by combining multiple mediums. As a Social Practice Artist I see my community as a canvas and I use my creative skills to work with people in their communities to affect change through Reinventing Communities & Changing Perceptions about the people in those communities.	\$300







	Whitney Kretchek	<i>CJ Homa Forever</i> 2025, Acrylic on canvas, wax, buttons, foil paper, 48" x 36" x 2"	\$1500
	Whitney Kretchek	<i>Journal Page 03</i> 2025, Acrylic on canvas board, 11" x 14" x 0.5" Activism is important because it gives people a voice to challenge injustice, create meaningful change, and hold systems accountable. It empowers communities to stand up for their rights, influence policy, and build a more just and equitable society for everyone.	\$200





	Adam Kretchek	<p><i>Shattered</i></p> <p>2025, Print on photo paper matted in wood/glass frame, 16" x 20" x 1"</p> <p>My photographs feature my daughter crying into a broken mirror, a reflection that speaks to fractured identities, generational trauma, and the struggle to find wholeness in a system designed to break us. The image embodies not only sorrow but also truth—the mirror's shards representing the harsh realities of oppression, while my daughter's tears reveal both vulnerability and strength.</p>	\$150
	Adam Kretchek	<p><i>Alone</i></p> <p>2025, Print on photo paper matted in plastic/plastic frame, 20" x 24" x 1"</p>	\$150





Zeph

The Fruits of Legal Slave Labor

\$1000

2025, Oil on Canvas Panel, 18" x 24" x 1"

Zeph Vondenhuevel is a self taught disabled artist residing in small town Ohio. Their work, steeped in tragedy and anger and topped off with a dash of humor and sexuality, often takes aim at institutions such as the medical, insurance, and prison industries, drawn on by the artist's experiences of feeling trapped within them all.

Working mostly from bed due to their progressive illnesses and pain levels, the artist creates grungy paintings with oils and acrylics, and sculptures created with found objects from the never ending cycle of doctor visits and hospital trips. A member of the Returning Artist Guild, Zeph is driven to create by a love for their community, a sense of justice for all suffering due to inequality and stigma, and a yearning for a world not controlled by a select few at the expense of all the rest.



Julia Bogart

Grief of Self

\$600

2025, Acrylic on canvas,
16" x 20" x 0.5"

This work portrays a concept that I've struggled with and contemplated for a long time: grief of self. A type of mourning that happens silently in a world that doesn't see the loss. I've often felt, in darker moments, that I'd become a different person than I was before psychosis, but more than that that the original 'me' had died and I was little more than a living monument to a girl no one else knew was dead. This early loss of dreams, goals and even a sense of personhood led me to a life of isolation for many years where I was both vigil and mourner. In this work, I've tried to capture that feeling and the sense of helplessness that comes with the shifting sands of a collapsing identity.



Jayme Santini

Heart Collector

\$1500

2025, Acrylic Paint on Canvas, 48" x 48" x 1.5"

Jayme Santini discovered the freedom of art as a child. Through the waves of life, she has used it as a consistent form of expression and voice. She uses styles, mediums, and symbolism to shout visual feelings, ideas, and stories. She is currently using sharp lines and contrast to emphasize the main story line: She will survive at all costs...Heart collector. It is a story of the survivor that goes on up. That has the will to always get back up.





Gwendolyn
Garth

I am In Harmony My Self ...Now!

2025, Print, 20" x 20"

My personal artwork explores a new form of artistic expression that questions the canon of art history's conventional attitudes towards art making. My personal artwork begins with creative journaling: recording my thoughts through art and writing and later bringing my work "Off The Pages." My personal artwork investigates the unlimited possibilities of art making by combining multiple mediums. As a Social Practice Artist I see my community as a canvas and I use my creative skills to work with people in their communities to affect change through Reinventing Communities & Changing Perceptions about the people in those communities.

\$300





Aimee
Wissman

Memory Mapping Prison Edition

\$500

2021, Acrylic marker on paper,
16" x 13" x 1"

Aimee's visual artworks explore the intersections of her own lived experience with incarceration, addiction, abuse, motherhood, poverty, safety, and the architecture of violence. Her paintings are full of surface tension and are particularly focused on the abstract expression of the symbolic languages of carceral spaces. She is currently building a body of 3-D, site-specific, installation works, as well as exploring abolitionist fiber art practices. You can find her work in the permanent collections of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Pardon Attorney, the Columbus Public Library, and in the groundbreaking exhibition, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration*.





Aimee
Wissman

Wanted You to Know Me

2025, Screenprint and hand embroidery on reworked hoodies, 35" x 28" x 3"

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\$500





Kamisha
Thomas

Unbelievable Journey

2025, Acrylic and metallic marker on canvas panel, 10" x 8"

My films, stories, poems, skits, and scripts are rooted in lived experiences—both my own and those of others. Some of those voices mirror my own, while others are vastly different. What connects us all, despite our differences, is our shared humanity. Through my work, I aim to hold up a mirror—not only to myself but to my audience—inviting deep self-reflection around ego, privilege, and compassion. I believe self-expression is essential for growth and transformation. Over time, my artistic voice has evolved to bridge gaps in understanding, allowing people to truly feel where someone else is coming from. Art is the language of empathy. It holds the power to spark comprehension, foster connection, and pave the way toward collective healing. Through my creative practice, I strive to contribute to a world where self-awareness leads to mutual respect—and where expression becomes the conduit for unconditional acceptance across all boundaries. My voice will be heard. My stories will resonate. And my contribution will ripple across generations.

\$100





Kamisha
Thomas

Out of Place 1

2024, Acrylic, stickers, beads,
institutional materials, leaves, mirror,
7" x 5"

My films, stories, poems, skits, and scripts are rooted in lived experiences—both my own and those of others. Some of those voices mirror my own, while others are vastly different. What connects us all, despite our differences, is our shared humanity. Through my work, I aim to hold up a mirror—not only to myself but to my audience—inviting deep self-reflection around ego, privilege, and compassion. I believe self-expression is essential for growth and transformation. Over time, my artistic voice has evolved to bridge gaps in understanding, allowing people to truly feel where someone else is coming from. Art is the language of empathy. It holds the power to spark comprehension, foster connection, and pave the way toward collective healing. Through my creative practice, I strive to contribute to a world where self-awareness leads to mutual respect—and where expression becomes the conduit for unconditional acceptance across all boundaries. My voice will be heard. My stories will resonate. And my contribution will ripple across generations.

NFS

