

PCAP NEWS

March 2017

The PCAP newsletter aims to keep incarcerated artists, writers, and performers informed of what the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) is doing and how to be involved. If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please have them write to us.

PCAP Donates Art to Federal Court Justices

by Ashley Lucas

On January 30, 2017 the University of Michigan hosted a joint conversation between United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Susanne Baer of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany—that country’s highest court. Justice Sotomayor was presented with an honorary doctorate of law degree, an honor which Justice Baer had also received in 2014. After Justice Sotomayor was officially given her ceremonial degree, she unexpectedly took over the microphone and said, “Now I can officially say, ‘Go, Blue!’”

Sonia Sotomayor was born in New York City in 1954, the child of working class Puerto Rican parents. Sotomayor became one of the first minority students to gain admittance to Princeton University, where she graduated summa cum laude in 1976. She earned her law degree from Yale University in 1979. President Barack Obama nominated her for the U.S. Supreme Court, where she has been an Associate Justice since 2009. She is the first Latina and third woman to hold the post of U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Her rulings in U.S. Supreme Court cases have provided greater legal rights for juveniles at the time of their arrests, undocumented immigrants, and people serving life sentences that were given to them as juveniles.



Justice Sotomayor with “The Lifer” by Martin Vargas

Susanne Baer was born in Saarbrücken, Germany, in 1964. She studied at the Free University of Berlin from 1983 to 1988 and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1993. In 2011 she began a twelve-year term on the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany. Baer is the first lesbian to serve as a Justice of that court. Throughout her legal career, Justice Baer’s rulings have granted greater legal protections to women and members of the LGBTQ community. She was part of the majority ruling on the Federal Constitutional Court which overturned the ban on the wearing of hijabs in German classrooms in 2015.



“The Quiet Beauty of a Sunset” by Oliger Merko

PCAP artists have donated to us and chose Oliger Merko’s *The Quiet Beauty of a Sunset* to donate to Justice Baer. Each Justice received her artwork, along with a copy of volume eight of the *Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing* and a letter explaining what PCAP is, why we were inspired to give each Justice a gift, and who the artist of each painting is. Both Justices Sotomayor and Baer received these gifts enthusiastically and were greatly impressed by the quality of the artwork and by the idea of what we do at PCAP.

The Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) was not one of the official sponsors of the Justices’ visit to our campus, but those of us in the PCAP office are so inspired by the life and work of these remarkable judges that we decided to donate a piece of PCAP artwork to each of them. We were notified several months in advance that Justice Sotomayor would be visiting campus, and we invited Martin Vargas, an incarcerated painter who has participated in our *Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners* since its inception, to create an original piece for Justice Sotomayor, which he titled *The Lifer*. When we discovered much later that Justice Baer would be speaking with Justice Sotomayor, we looked through the excellent work that many

We only wished we had a way to introduce them to even more of the impressive art, writing, and performance work that so many of you do. Because of the artwork by Mr. Vargas and Mr. Merko and the words of the writers in volume eight of the literary review, two of the highest-ranking judges in the world know about PCAP and the incredible talents of incarcerated people in Michigan. You have inspired them as you inspire those of us who work and volunteer at PCAP every day. We are so grateful for your generous donations of time, talent, writing, and art to PCAP. Thank you and congratulations to Mr. Vargas, Mr. Merko, and the writers from the literary review!

Exhibitions

The 22nd Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners runs March 22–April 5 in the Duderstadt Center Gallery on the University of Michigan campus. Our curators have selected 550 pieces by 450 artists for this year's show. This is the first year of a new curatorial process. A team of curators led art selection trips this fall for a First Pass Selection. Curators met as a group this winter for a Second Pass Selection. In this meeting, they determined which of the 600 pieces initially selected to include in the exhibit. Artists, your notification letter about the status of your First Pass Selection pieces is included with this newsletter.

Promotional materials and the gallery design are getting a facelift this year, thanks to support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Improvements include new pedestals, new artwork bins, and redesigned wall text. We will capture the upgrades in this year's video.

Events include what should be a riveting keynote presentation by Dr. Heather Thompson, author of *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*, a National Book Award Finalist. In this talk, Dr. Thompson will share Attica's history, as well as explain why this history matters today.



Dan Valentine builds a pedestal for the exhibit

Once again, PCAP is inviting friends and families of artists and writers to lunch at the exhibition. Invitations were sent to contacts of artists in the exhibition and writers in the literary review. New this year is a concurrent Linkage Project lunch for members to meet each other and share ideas.

PCAP held an art auction in February to raise money for the 22nd Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners. It featured over 40 pieces of work donated by artists from both the inside and the outside. The event raised nearly \$1,000 for the art show!



Art Auction guests view work for sale

Literary Review

Dear writers,

On behalf of the staff of the *Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing*, we would like to thank you for submitting your engaging, passionate, and unique pieces. We truly appreciate your hard work, which is always evident, and we are honored that you have shared your work with us. We have greatly enjoyed reading all of the submissions we have received and look forward to reviewing what you may write next.

We have enjoyed it so much that we have decided to open rolling submissions so that we can enjoy your work all year long! This means that we will be accepting submissions throughout the year; our staff will be reading as well as responding to your pieces as soon as we are able to.

The next pieces we'll select will appear in Volume 11, appearing in 2019. The 2018 Volume will celebrate ten years of the *Review* by reprinting some of the finest pieces we've published—which will give some of the work from our out-of-print earlier volumes a chance to be read again.

We will strive to take no more than 8-10 weeks responding to new submissions going forward.

Again, the staff would like to thank you for your outstanding pieces of writing that you have submitted thus far. We strongly encourage you to continue in this creative process and send us any and all of your work.

The submission guidelines are as follows:

The Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) is accepting submissions of creative writing—fiction, poetry, essays, or memoir) of up to 4,500 words (ten typed pages) for *The Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing*. Submissions will be received at this address throughout the year:

PCAP at LSA Residential College
ATTN: Phil Christman
701 E. University Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1245

Please submit the following information with your written work:

- Your legal name (so we can communicate with you by mail)
- Your name or pen name as you'd like it to appear in the journal, if that's different than your legal name
- Your MDOC ID number
- Your current address
- A short paragraph about yourself/your writing that will be published alongside any accepted piece



Volume 9 cover art by Scary

Why are we making these changes? The combination of year-round submissions and making next year's issue a best-of issue means that we can fulfill several of our goals at once. It means we can work on both the 2018 and 2019 issues at the same time—choosing our best old pieces for 2018 while picking new work for 2019. Because we'll be facing less of a time crunch on 2019 (and can start earlier on following volumes as well), we'll be able to offer the writers we publish a chance to see how their pieces will actually look in the book, and to sign-off on changes—something many of you have requested. The best-of volume will allow some of the work we've published before to live again (since early issues are out of print), and it will offer an inviting jumping-on point for new readers. And year-round voting on submissions and responding to submissions means folks won't have to wait till December to find out whether they're getting published.

-Phil Christman and the PCAP Editing Team

Linkage Project

Would you like to stay connected with PCAP after you come home? The Linkage Project offers workshops, cultural field trips, connections to PCAP's campus community, and the opportunity to build a network with other artists, writers, and performers. If you would like to participate, please write to Vanessa Mayesky when you have a release date.

Behind the Scenes at PCAP

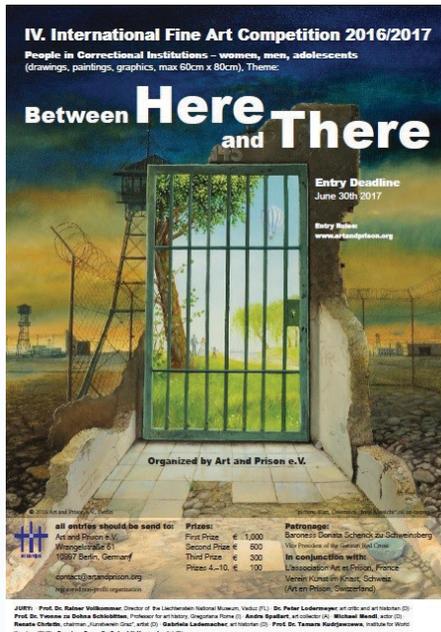
A visitor to PCAP's office said recently, "Wow, this is a really busy place!" We laughed and then asked her to take a picture to share with you. It might be hard to imagine, but there is a whole team of people at the University of Michigan working on PCAP programs!

From left to right: Graham (staff), Chayne, Dominique, and Kortez (student interns), El, Vanessa and Mary (staff). Not pictured: 75 workshop facilitators, four faculty members, six curators, 12 more student interns, and dozens of volunteers.



Call for Art: Art and Prison's 4th International Art Competition

PCAP received this call for art to share with you. We do not have any affiliation with this competition or additional information. If you have friends for family with Internet access, they can see the rules of the competition at artandprison.org. (The website is in German, but they can use Google Translate to view in English.)



“Between HERE and THERE” is the theme of the fourth international art competition that the non-profit organization Art and Prison e.V. is announcing for imprisoned individuals. Artworks from women, men and adolescents in correctional institutions will be awarded prizes. A jury of art experts will decide the winners.

The artworks entered in the competition will become part of a unique collection that will be shown throughout Europe in a traveling exhibition. Previous collections were shown, for example, at the German Palace of Justice in Berlin, in the American Center for the Arts in Paris, in the Lichtenstein National Museum in Vaduz and in the Munich Palace of Justice. The art competition, the exhibition, accompanying publications and a targeted publicity campaign want to make the public aware of the realities of life in prison.

Deadline: June 30, 2017

Terms of Participation

- Men, women, young adults and young people who are currently imprisoned may participate.
- The works submitted must have been produced during this period.
- The works submitted may not yet be shown in a public exhibition and have not yet been reproduced in a publication.
- Only one work can be submitted per participant.
- Drawings, paintings and graphics can be submitted which do not exceed a size of 60 x 80 cm, if possible framed or matted, with canvas with hanging possibility.
- An international jury is responsible for the selection and awards of the award winners.
- The decision of the jury is binding. The legal process is excluded.
- The submissions will become the property of the organizer.

Mailing Address for Entries

Art and Prison eV, Wrangelstrasse 51 - D - 10997 Berlin, Germany

Marking of the works

- Name of the participant
- Nationality of the participant
- Country and name of the detention center with address
- Contact person in the institution
- Title of the work
- Signature
- Size specification
- Specification of media
- Date of the application

Entry Costs

- No participation fees
- In the justified case, the procurement of material can be assisted
- Shipping costs are the responsibility of the artist

Competition Criteria

- Assessment criteria: originality, implementation of the theme, design quality
- International jury chaired by art historian and art critic Dr. Peter Lodermeier
- The legal process against the jury decision is excluded. The decision of the jury will be communicate to the participants as well as publicly announced

Jury

- Renate Christin, chairman of the Kunstverein Graz and artist, Regensburg
- Prof. Dr. Tamara Kudrjawzewa, Moscow Gorky Institute for World Literacy, Moscow
- Gabriela Lademacher, art historian, Frankfurt and Berlin
- Dr. Peter Lodermeier, art historian and art critic, Bonn (chairman)
- Michael Mendl, Actor, Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Vollkommer, Director of the Liechtenstein National Museum, Vaduz (Liechtenstein)
- Yvonne to Dohna Schlobitten, Professor of Art History, Gregoriana Rome

Prizes

- First prize: €1,000
- Second price: €500
- Third prize: €300
- Fourth to tenth prize: €100

Calendar

March–May

22nd Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

March 22–April 5, Duderstadt Center Gallery, Ann Arbor

Opening Reception: March 22, 7pm

Artist Panel: March 26, 11am

Friends & Family Lunch: March 26, 12:30pm

Keynote, Dr. Heather Thompson: March 28, 7pm

Artwork Pickup: April 5, 6–8pm; April 6, 10am–4pm

Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing Readings

Ann Arbor Reading: March 26, 3pm

Detroit Reading: May 20, 3pm

Weekly Creative Arts Workshops

Facilities in southeast Michigan

Award Winners and Selected Work Exhibit

May 5–27, University of Michigan Detroit Center

Linkage Project Workshop Day

May 20, University of Michigan Detroit Center

June–August

Mail Results of 22nd Annual Exhibit Sales

Mail payment to MDOC for deposit into artist accounts, ship artwork to buyers and artist contacts.

Call for Art: 23rd Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

Rolling submissions for Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing

September–November

Art Selection Visits for 23rd Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners

Weekly Creative Arts Workshops

Facilities in southeast Michigan

Rolling submissions for Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing

Linkage Project Visit to ArtPrize in Grand Rapids

About PCAP

Mission Statement

The Prison Creative Arts Project brings those impacted by the justice system and the University of Michigan community into artistic collaboration for mutual learning and growth.

Contact Us

PCAP at LSA Residential College

1801 East Quadrangle

701 E. University Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1245

pcapinfo@umich.edu

prisonarts.org

PCAP Faculty

Ashley Lucas, Director

Phil Christman, Sarah Messer, Isaac Wingfield

PCAP Staff

El Chen, Graham Hamilton, Mary Heinen,

Vanessa Mayesky

Annual Exhibition Curators

Reuben Kenyatta, Charlie Michaels, Janie Paul,

Ariana Wescott, Isaac Wingfield, Jason Wright