

Not Beyond Hope

*Artwork, Poetry, and Prose
Presented by the Inmates of the
South Bay House of Correction*



Hope: A belief in a positive outcome related to events and circumstances in one's life. Hope implies a certain amount of perseverance — i.e., believing that a positive outcome is possible even when there is some evidence to the contrary.

Sheriff's Message



*Sheriff
Andrea J. Cabral*

Welcome to Not Beyond Hope, a quarterly compilation of poetry, essays, and art created by the inmates at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

Not Beyond Hope is designed to provide a positive outlet for creativity and expression. Future editions will include contributors' reflections on a number of topics. We hope you enjoy and appreciate the feelings shared in these pages.

In this edition of Not Beyond Hope, the artwork featured comes from a group of inmates who took part in a special first-of-its-kind art program that concluded its inaugural run this past June.

The art program was designed to not only provide inmates with an introduction to art history and technical instruction, but also with the means through which to practice discipline, focus, and self control – valuable skills that will prove useful as they continue their rehabilitation and, ultimately, reentry into society.

I want to commend Director of Education Dorothy Dunford for her efforts around implementation of the program, and art instructor Kristie Tuffs-Kugler for her work with the men enrolled in the class.

With every good wish,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'Andrea', written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Andrea J. Cabral

Inmate Art Program Closes With Gallery Showing

On June 20th, a group of ten inmates participated in an art exhibition held in the halls of the Education Department within the Suffolk County House of Correction at South Bay.

The event was the culmination of a sixteen-week art program that was initiated by Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Director of Education Dorothy Dunford and taught by Kristie Tuffs-Kugler, a Columbian-born Master of Fine Arts from the Winchester School of Art in England. Over the course of the program, participants of the class were taught the principles of a variety of artistic techniques including pastels, watercolors, pencil and ink, tempera, oil pastels, and a host of mixed media.

Said Dunford about the significance of the class, "This program is important because, as Kristie likes to say, it forces each participant out of their comfort zone. We get a lot of repeat offenders here at the HOC. Even though what they've been doing is illegal, it's what they know. They're comfortable doing it. This program forces them to stretch beyond what they know and are comfortable in, which can translate into taking different paths in their future lives than they would normally take."

Imparting an understanding of such creative artistic movements as Impressionism, Cubism, Dada, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, and Minimalism using a series of readings, DVD's and testing, Tuffs-Kugler stressed the discipline and focus required of a true artist.

"We don't want to waste paper and we don't want to waste anybody's time," Tuffs-Kugler said. "We don't want anyone thinking this is some...program that you can just come into and hang out in. You chose to do this program. You chose to be here."

According to Dunford, the expectation going forward is that the lessons gained within the program will be of particular use elsewhere, too.

"We shouldn't forget that many of the people incarcerated here have not been successful adults in life," Dunford said. "This is just one of the ways that we can help them to realize a measure of success and gain self-worth and, in extension, value others. We have a responsibility to do all that we can do to see to it that they leave the institution more improved than when they came in."



Kristie Tuffs-Kugler

Michael Duff



Bernard Davis



Dana Brown





Bernard Davis

☞ “My piece, it’s about connecting to my people out there. It’s an ode – a way to show love for the city.

I used to draw when I was younger. I’d draw the Marvel superheroes – Wolverine and all those guys. It evolved into me doing a couple of school projects in middle school. I got into carpentry later on, which was kind of creative as well, but in a different way.

I like the entire aspect of art. I like photography, painting, sculpture, and graphic design. I see art in everything.

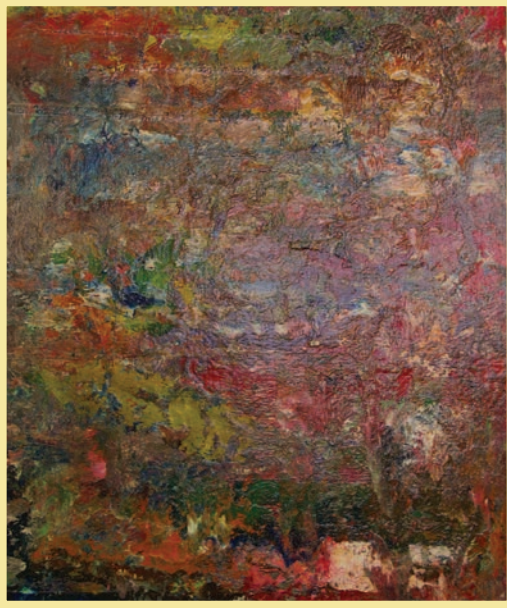
I want to open my own fashion design company. I’ve

looked into Rhode Island School of Design, Mass College of Art and other places. I hope to be able to continue with art and design when I’m out. I have a lot of design ideas in my head and I want to be able to make them a reality.

The class was really good because we learned more about art history. We learned about the styles and movements.

I want to see this program happen for others after me. I think it’s a good thing to have for people in jail.” ☞





Dana Brown

☞ “I like this picture because it’s messy, but at the same time, it has order. It doesn’t have to be pretty to tell a story. It’s giving you a lot of different messages. It can mean different things to different people.

Art is like speaking with out using words. When I was working, though, I didn’t have a message in mind for each of my pieces. I just did them and then found meaning in them afterward, like it was something that I didn’t realize that I was trying to express. My pictures fit whatever the mindset is at that moment.

This class has been like inspiration. I would like to try to keep working on my art when I get out. What we started in here makes me want to try and see where else I can go with it.” ☞





Michael Duff

“I felt liberated when I smelled the scent of paint upon walking into class the first time.

What was great about Kristie is that she taught us concepts. She didn't teach us

how to hold a pencil or what brush strokes to use. She just gave us concepts and turned us loose to create.

I'd painted all along, but my forte is poetry, which I've done for quite some time. But, I've dabbled in different mediums.

The painting of the boys looking out from the window is probably a product of the fact that I've been spending a lot of time looking out of windows. They're looking out into the world from inside of their world.

And the people dancing around under the street lamp – that comes from my boyhood memories of summer when life was different. I remember being out, just before nightfall. Everyone was out



playing and dancing, hanging out and talking. I can remember all of our mothers telling us that we had to be in when the lights came on in the street, so we'd try to really enjoy being out as it started to get dark. We'd try to stay out as long as we could. It's also about coming into the light and out of the darkness.”





Christian Brisbon

“Before this class, I did a little drawing, but I didn’t know about the different aspects of art and the history of it, the different materials you use.”

Kristie was really good. She took us through the different eras and encouraged us to try new things. She let us just be creative and the class got me to do some things that I might never have done.

This portrait is a painting of my daughter.

I’ve always been around art, though, like graffiti. I’m also involved in Hip Hop, which is creative art in a different way.

Art is soothing. It’s good for the mind. There is a lot of depth and meaning in it. It helps you to relax and release tension. When the class was over, it felt like having a good cry, getting everything out of your system.

I also got to meet some really good brothers.

I hope that this will be able to open up some doors for people coming in after us.”





Michael Duff



Dana Brown



Bernard Davis



Christian Brisbon



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