

**Artwork, Poetry, and Prose Presented by residents of the Suffolk County House of Correction**

*HOPE: A belief in a positive outcome regarding events and circumstances in one's life. Hope embodies a level of perseverance, meaning believing that a positive result is possible even in the face of some contrary evidence.*

# *Not Beyond Hope*

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department



July 2025,

Welcome to “Not Beyond Hope,” our publication for the creative voices of individuals incarcerated at the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail. Through original art, poetry, and essays, this collection offers a powerful window into residents’ inner lives, reflections, and journeys.

Created as a space for positive expression, Not Beyond Hope aims to highlight the work of participants who have taken the opportunity to explore and share their thoughts and emotions through various artistic mediums.

This issue marks the start of our newly-revamped art program, and we are excited to present a diverse range of visual artwork, which was produced by men in the program, with a mix of both men and women to be featured in the next edition.

Accompanying these visual art pieces are poems that expand upon the themes and emotions behind the art, offering more profound insight into each creator’s perspective.

The art program helps our residents cultivate discipline, focus, and emotional self-regulation—critical tools that support both rehabilitation and the process of reentry into society.

Through guided instruction and creative exploration, participants learn to channel negative energy into constructive and non-violent expression using a variety of tools and creativity.

We extend our sincere thanks to Johan Quintero – art instructor and artist – for his dedicated work with the program. His thoughtful approach has helped to capture and reflect the spirit of each participant’s work that is featured in this book.

Sincerely,

**Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

Hope does not promise certainty; it promises possibility, and in that, it gives breath to the future.

Where logic halts and evidence fades, hope continues walking barefoot across the coals,  
unscathed by the fire of doubt.

~Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins





## Emotion

By Rajaan Davis | “Solo”



Rajaan Davis | “Solo”

### The making of “Emotion”:

“I was angry, I had a bad day that day. I came in with all this aggression, all these thoughts, and just all these feelings. My teacher asked me just to put paint on the canvas. I’m just painting on it, while he’s saying, ‘Now, draw on lines,’ ‘Now draw in circles,’ ‘Now draw in this, now draw in that,’ ‘What do you see here?’, and while he is guiding me into this place where I wasn’t, I can speak about what my feelings were before and now. It’s just like, I’m looking at my main problem, loyalty—I’m constantly being too loyal, and that’s what it kind of came out to.

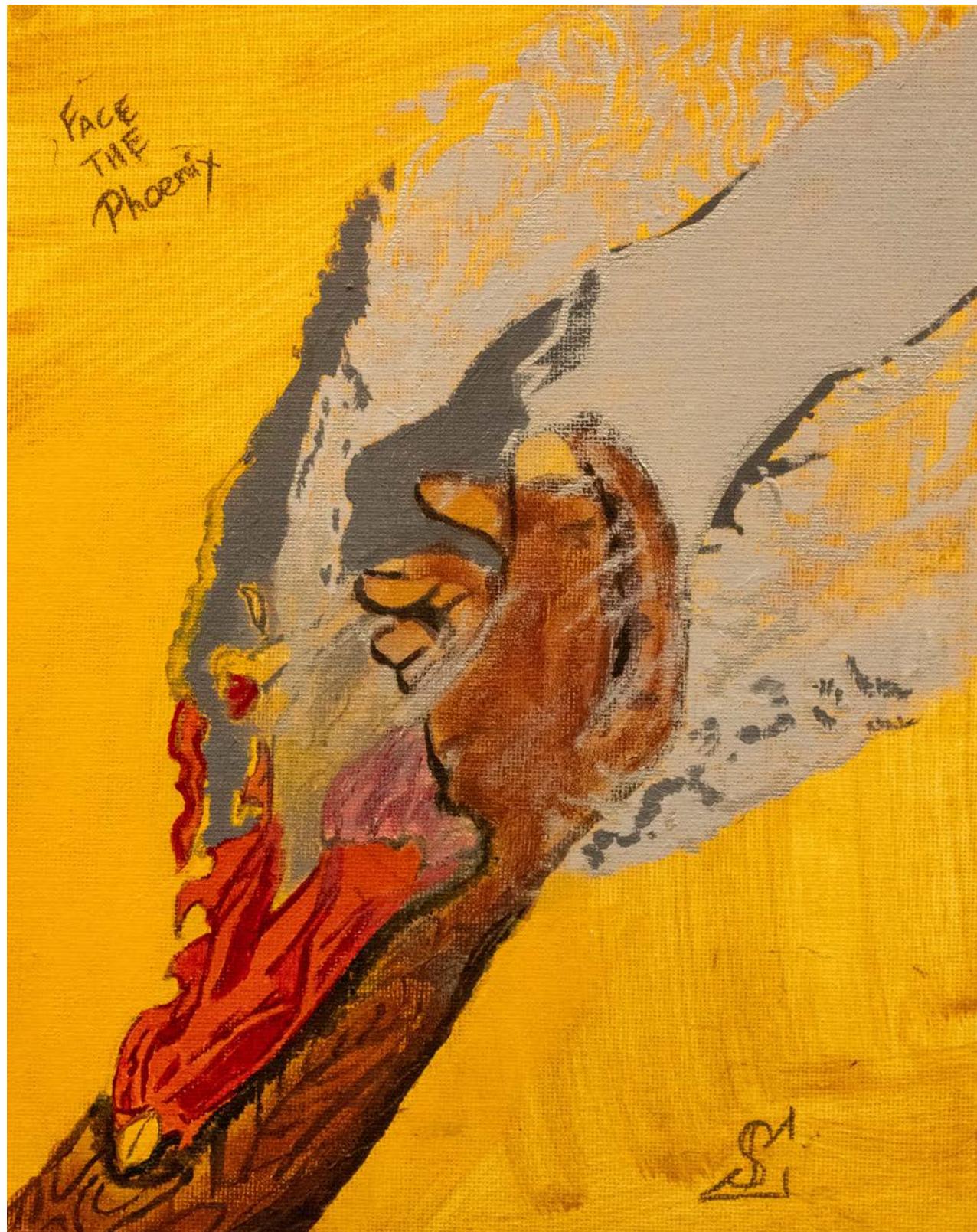
Art allows me to see myself in that present form and it will enable me to be able to make a decision from there, whether I can complete it, or whether I know that I should be onto a new form of it, or whether I should just mess it up and just leave it all on the paper.”



## Villa de Romantica

By Rajaan Davis | "Solo"

Let the night be our shadow.  
Candles, drapes, fingers, tattoos.  
Let the streetlights be our moon.  
The specks flood the curves, my kisses line the grooves.  
Let nature be your perfume.  
The musk of the land allows your flower to bloom.  
Chest to boobs lips to mmm.  
How sweet the cream of the land.  
How soft the foliage upon your threshold.  
As the wine flows, our desire grows.  
Let this Polaroid be our guide.  
Our Villa de...



Face the Phoenix

By Rajaan Davis | "Solo"

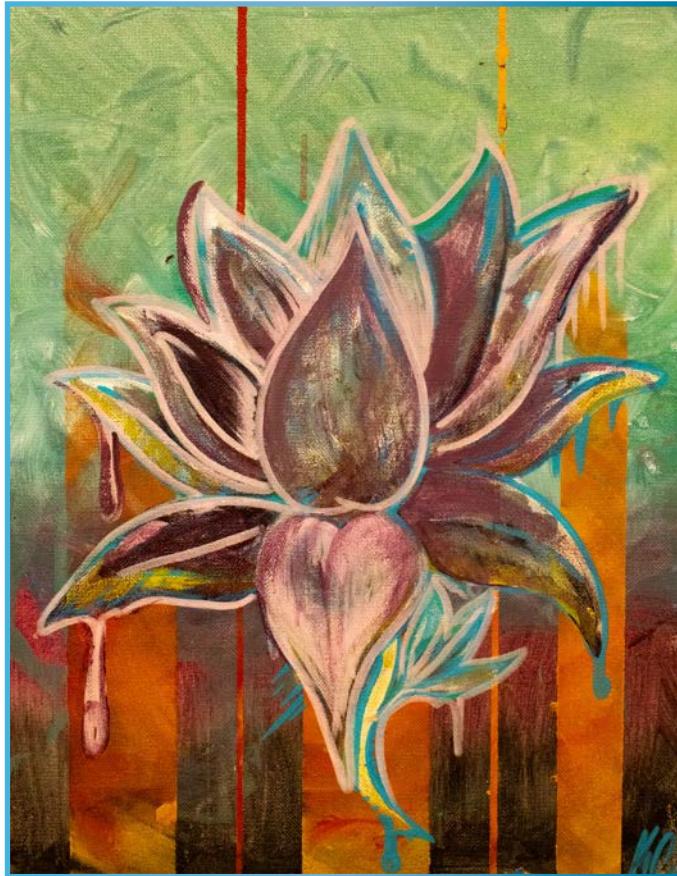


## The Phased Rose

By Rajaan Davis | "Solo"

Was it the bars?  
Was it the Void?  
Was it the Phantom beauty alone?  
Inside..... Outside  
Protected by the folds?  
What matters of the colors?  
Where do they go?  
What matters of the bars!  
What do they hold:  
What matters of this plant that comes and goes?  
Is it the past or the future? Only the present Knows?  
Decide - Decide  
What are my goals?  
But ...  
Decide a move  
To Fip A Rose

By Rajaan Davis | "Solo"



## Lotus with Love

By Erick F. Casey

I have a new flower  
I will show attention to in My “Life”  
**LIFE ITSELF.**



Erick F. Casey

### Meaning of the art piece “Lotus with Love”:

“I have a new flower, I will show attention to in my life...”

For Eric, this signifies replacing his old flower—symbolizing the actions that have brought him here—with a new one and exploring what it will blossom into, seeking self-love and transformation.



## Boston Fall @ Five

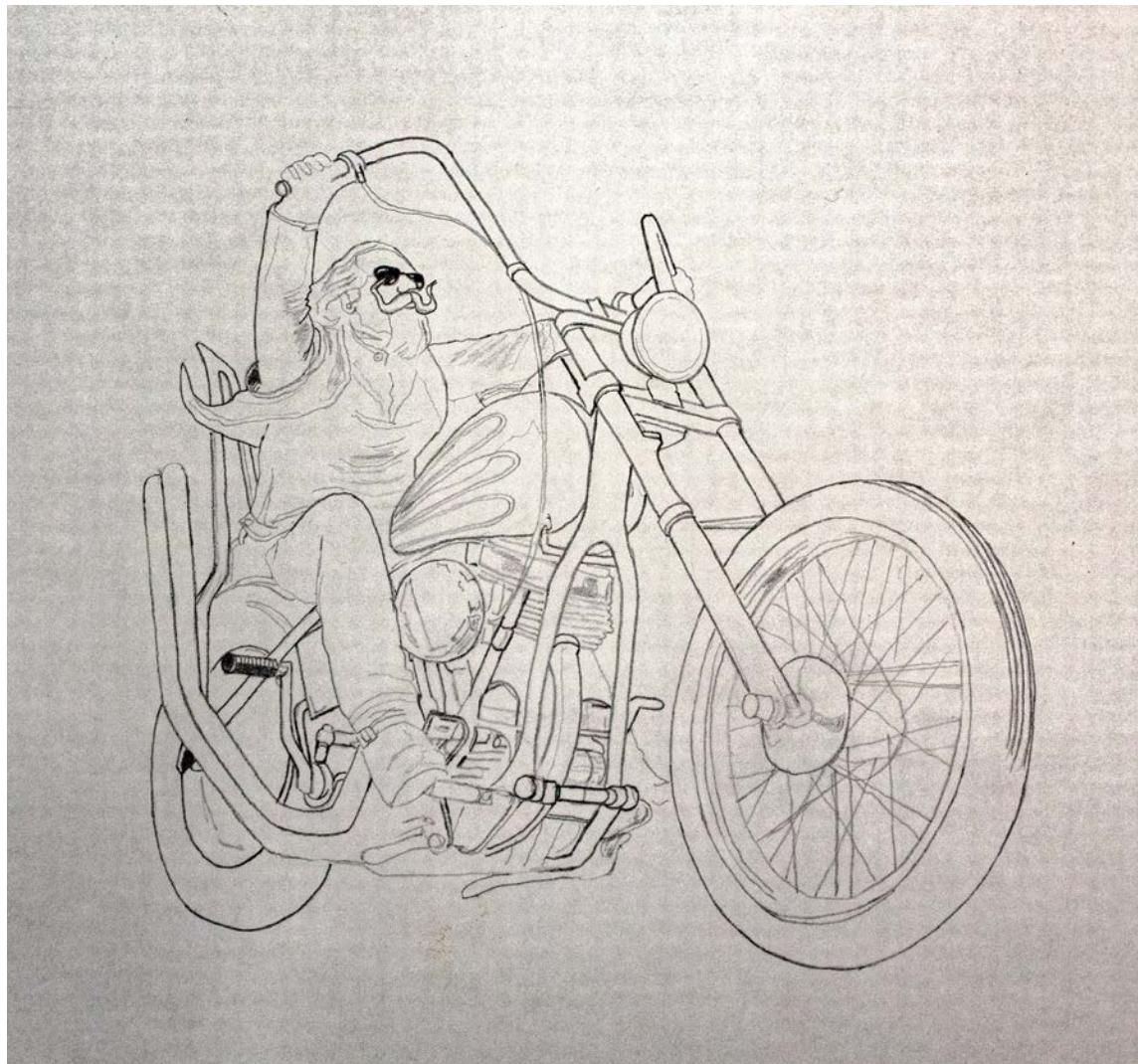
By Dennis Carney



**Dennis Carney**

### **The meaning of “Boston Fall @ Five”:**

“After leaving here, I would enjoy watching the sunset at the beach or seeing the city at night. And Boston Fall @ Five is what I imagine it to be.”



# Memories

By Dennis Carney

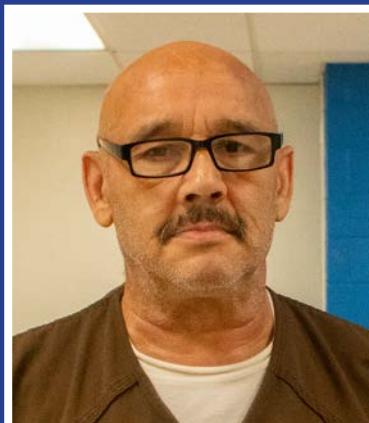


**By Dennis Carney**



## Flower Flow

By Milteer Hendricks



**Milteer Hendricks**

### **The meaning of “Flower Flow”:**

“This flower gown is about my connection to nature, my heritage, and the traditions of hunting and fishing. I’m a Native American. This paint has the colors and floral patterns that remind me of my family, my roots, and the nature I love.”



## Far Away

By Milteer Hendricks



Peace

By James Mendes



James Mendes

#### The meaning of “Peace”:

For James, his artwork “Peace” reflects peace of mind, evoking a sense of calm and reflection.

“You see nice bright colors, flowers, and blues representing the ocean. All these things inspire peaceful feelings—just a piece of mind.”



## Chance by Chances

By Urvin Lucien | “Eazy Le’Flare”



Urvin Lucien | “Eazy Le’Flare”

### The meaning of “Chance by Chances”:

“These colors—black, red, and orange—represent motivation to take new chances... that it’s okay to be different, to be yourself, and that everything is possible.”



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