

Donald Middlebrooks

What inspired you to embark on this project?

It gave me the chance to reach out through my art and hope to help someone else

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists?

because it shines light on who we were and shows we are more than the five minutes we are now known by

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

It helps us to express many parts of our make-up and in doing so we come face to face with our most hidden self and began the process of healing

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

many use different methods of escape, for some its art or reading or music. We have spent our lives escaping the past for some its the only way to stay sane in a insane world.

What inspired you to embark on this project? *just the memories of the brother's I've lost and each of us striving to live on.*

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists?

*I chose ~~the~~ <sup>the word</sup> monument as a guideline for the show because so many years have gone by without our very soles touching the grass.*

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row? In my opinion its therapeutic personally for myself.

Why because it has become a way of expressing my most deepest emotions rather being sad or happy. I really enjoy bringing joy to another persons heart.

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

In my personal opinion another person cannot define the escape of ones mind.

Abu Ali, the Episcopalian

8/2/15

Abu-Ali Abdur' Rahman

What inspired you to embark on this project? I thought this venture was an opportunity at this stage in life, was Amel. This invitation is a chance to join a larger community and give voice to the need for understanding and enlightenment.

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists? I chose the word memorial, that is because my participation is mystical and transcendence.

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is? Most western cultures believe in remembering death as something sad and it appears to be no closure.

I believe in eternal life. Though the flesh may become no longer sound, the energy can still be felt. Life continues to be.

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

I  
Sincerely believe art is just that. And  
something more.

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As an artist, to me art is an avenue  
to other imaginations and worlds beyond  
the physical aspect.

Thank you for this opportunity.  
May your footsteps always follow the path of  
beauty.

Amaste

Harold Wayne Nichols

What inspired you to embark on this project?

THIS VENUE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHED LIGHT ON PROBLEMS WHICH CONCERN ME SUCH AS THE CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE, DEATH PENALTY AND THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists?

THE "MONUMENT" ASPECT, WHEN PRESENTED TO ME APPEALED TO ME BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT I THINK THE WORLD WOULD LOOK LIKE IF MY VISION WAS REALIZED.

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

PROBABLY BECAUSE NO ONE HERE WANTS TO SEE A MONUMENT TO "SELF" BUT WOULD RATHER USE THE MONUMENT ASPECT TO HELP OTHERS

Harold Wayne Nichols

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

VERY MUCH SO. FIRST - IT IS AN ESCAPISM - A WAY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE BEHIND, IF ONLY MENTALLY. SECONDLY - ART - IN ANY FORM - TENDS TO RELAX ME AND ALLOWS ME TO FEEL LESS STRESS

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

ESCAPE - EITHER REAL OR IMAGINED IS A WAY OUT. WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN THIS SITUATION AND ANYBODY - NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE OR WHAT THEIR SITUATION IS WILL SEEK TO ESCAPE THEIR ENVIRON EVEN IF ITS ONLY IN THEIR DREAMS. THIS "MONUMENT" EXHIBIT ALLOWS US TO EXPRESS THIS NATURAL DESIRE TO BE FREE OF OUR PRISON



What inspired you to embark on this project? For me (Gdongalay Berry) it was an approach to life and destiny. The memorialize project was an stretch because I was not able to do it. I took this opportunity to express by sight and written word to express or show one should live first.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gdongalay Berry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists?

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row? *It can be therapeutic if one is free to express yourself and not bound by judgement from internal caution of what society say about conformist or vanilla people*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

# Derrick Quintero

What inspired you to embark on this project?

The injustices ~~in~~ all that runs rampant within the judicial system. I've fought it in my own way for decades, but learned the mechanics of the processes and decided that I had to learn the tools of the masters in order to win. Escaping and robbing the authority, didn't work.

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists?

I did not do a "monument" to death but to living and the "struggle" for truth.

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

Mine are political. Mine are direct confrontations between what the authority defines as Truth and the reality of Truth.

Derrick Quintero

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

Yes? Art teaches one to connect to a calmer sense of self. It teaches discipline and community oneness.

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

In one form or another, escapism is ~~as~~ how one maintains sanity in prison

Ron Cauthern

What inspired you to embark on this project? In order to bring about awareness of the Death Penalty and to allow society to feel like they've seen inside our world during a time when we are completely helpless.

Why did you choose the word "monument" as a guideline for the participating artists? Long after this Art Exhibit is over, it will remain forever a monument of our work.

In the press release you note, "no one in this exhibition has proposed an obelisk, a triumphal arch, or a bronze colossus. These monuments are primarily conceptual. Many of them are ephemeral." Why do you think that is?

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

Absolutely. When a person is under the sentence of death, it is a perfect opportunity to slowly build your life from scratch. Art is a perfect example of creating something new and developing your own existence from that piece of art.

While some artists contributed works that are solid "monuments," others created works addressing more ephemeral ideas, such as escape. Gary Cone's work in particular comes to mind. Why do you think themes of escape are so prevalent? And how is this juxtaposed with the concept of a "monument"?

The art with a theme of escape is prevalent because each day is a fight toward it.

What inspired you to embark on this project?

To let others know that my current circumstances do not define me as a person nor is it my identity. Also, to express my passion to help our youth through the means of a conceptual community recreation center.

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Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

It can be for some, but for me (personally), it is a spiritual and constructive act. It is one of my passions.

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For me, I would replace the word "escape" with the word "freedom". Even though I am currently not free (physically), I still maintain my freedom through my art expressions, poetry, composed music, and other writings and studies, as well as "freedom" spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally.





An anonymous prisoner who chose not to participate in the exhibition

What inspired you to embark on this project?

I WASN'T inspired to do anything upon this project because monument is for those of love one's & friends to do about you

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exch is it ON within the world of art...

An anonymous prisoner who chose not to participate in the exhibition

Do you believe creating art is a therapeutic act for those on death row?

*No... Art is something I do & I believe  
it's more for the view than the artist..*

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