



MCIW hosts summer art showcase celebrating hope, healing, and second chances

PEARL – The Mississippi Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW) hosted its Summer Art Showcase on July 9, celebrating the remarkable talent, creativity, and personal growth of women participating in the Angels Eyes & Hearts Visual Fine Art Program.

The showcase welcomed family members, community partners, and MCIW staff to view an inspiring collection of original artwork created by the participating artists. The event provided the women with a meaningful opportunity to showcase the skills they have developed and to share their accomplishments with loved ones and community members.

One of the event's highlights was a complimentary art raffle. Guests received raffle tickets for a chance to take home an original artwork by a participating artist, allowing families to leave with a lasting reminder of the creativity and dedication on display throughout the showcase.

Faculty and staff from Hinds Community College volunteered as guest judges, selecting first-, second-, and third-place winners from among the many exceptional works of art. Their participation demonstrated the importance of community partnerships in supporting rehabilitative programming and recognizing the accomplishments of the artists.

Guests also enjoyed a live painting demonstration, providing an opportunity to witness the artists' creativity and talent in action.

Superintendent Kate Head, who served as the event's keynote speaker, encouraged those in attendance to look beyond the artwork itself and recognize the personal journeys represented in every piece.

"When you walk through this room, I encourage you to look beyond the paint, the canvas, and the colors. These women have dedicated their time and talent to creating something meaningful, and today they have the opportunity to share that with all of us."

Program Director Erica Smith spoke about the program's mission and its impact since its creation in 2019.

"The Angels Eyes & Hearts Visual Fine Art Program began in 2019 as a way to help incarcerated individuals express themselves and provide a safe haven for our population. It is a Christian-based, 16-week program that teaches art in many forms while building self-esteem, confidence, and patience. I always tell the students, 'Your circumstances do not define your potential. Your creativity reveals it.' If I had to sum up what this art showcase meant to the staff, teachers, and population, I'd simply say it gave a glimpse of hope and positivity, spreading joy among all. Thank you, Superintendent Head, for helping showcase all of the beautiful artwork and giving hope to everyone. Our live, on-the-spot painting demonstration was definitely a must-see!"

An inmate facilitator for the program shared a message that reflects the heart of the program's mission:

"Through art, we discover that healing, hope, and growth are always possible."

The Art Program is a Christian-based, 16-week rehabilitative program designed to provide incarcerated women with a positive outlet for self-expression while fostering patience, confidence, creativity, and personal growth. Through art, participants are encouraged to develop new skills, strengthen their sense of purpose, and build hope for the future.

MCIW extends its sincere appreciation to Hinds Community College, community partners, volunteers, staff, and the families who attended the showcase. Their support helped make the event a memorable celebration of artistic achievement, encouragement, and the power of rehabilitation.



More examples of the inmates' work can be viewed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiDepartmentOfCorrections>