Islam Readers:

To those who read these words; I ask that they be read with the eyes of your hearts.

The following thoughts are from a former slave, now a Man that understands redemption. For no man live unto himself, for every living thing is bound by cords to every other living thing. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they will love and not demand love in return.

Once I found that my salvation is within me; I no longer looked outside myself. I now let my spirit actuate and direct my flesh. The reflection demonstrated in my Art is the clear image of my soul And so, by the actions of thinking, understanding, reasoning, and willing the essence of life are manifested and is well.

PEACE AND GOOD WILL...

Dr. C. Jerome Harden-Bey
Title of Work
Money, Time and The Parole Board (Buzzards)

Although there has been a 20% decline in the prison population over the last ten years, Michigan continues to keep a staggering number of inmates past their early release date. In this painting, the scale represents the justice system. The gold bars and bags of money is what it cost us to live in and get out of prison. The clock keeps track of the amount of time we do. The BUZZARDS are the parole board. We live in a jungle high in the trees, isolated from our loved ones.

The state of Michigan spends two billion dollars annually to house over 40,000 inmates at 31 prison facilities. The MDOC employs over 14,000 people, making it the biggest employer of state workers. Every prisoner would like to go home, but between prison and home is the BUZZARDS. More prisoners equals more state jobs, so the BUZZARDS want to keep us in as long as possible, past our release date. One way the MDOC does this is to delay our required programs before we go see the board. That can add up to 12 months or more to our sentence. Inmates and their families spend their money do the time, but the BUZZARDS just want to keep us in so they can all have jobs. That is just one way the MDOC mis-uses tax dollars.

Hello, I have been locked up for 16 yrs. I have struggle with my self and faith in God. But in 2017 I was saved and I now live peaceful with myself and my time. I am doing. I find my self through my paintings and drawings. I love them, which will be in the world for me to feel free.
Montney is an artist who was locked up since age 14. While entering his 29th year, it is his goal to be a better person and artist. This act changed his view on the prison experience to thoughts of the past and future. He is also skilled in many mediums and enjoys trying to bring a subject to life with paint or pencil.

This year, Montney hopes to show his hope for the future of his art in "opportunity meets preparation," while he uses his imagination and skill in the collage painting, "Colorful Imagination." The donation of "Bright Future - Distant Past" is Montney's taking a risk with experimenting with a loose, wet technique and abstract style.

In the 17th year of growing art with SCAP, this show has provided Montney with insight into his art and self, and opened up his world to good friends and the possibilities of using his art to help his future.