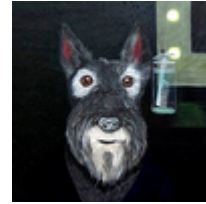


Julio Cesar Osorio



I discovered my ability to paint during the most difficult time in my life; having ended up in custody for responding to an assault by a doorman.

I taught myself by reading about different artists and different methods of painting and became a prolific painter overcoming great deal of problems, like the lack of materials as canvases for which I used prison fire blankets as the alternative and several pieces of boards that I gathered from around the prison to stretch the blankets on to.

Since my release, I made the decision to attach to each painting an original prison clothing label that I smuggled out and which consists of the HMP logo and writing on the other side stating where the item was produced.

The meaning behind using the tags on the paintings was to represent how an individual is tagged once they have been through the prison system. I chose to challenge that by making it public where my story as a painter began contrary to most people wanting to keep it a secret and avoid the stigma attached to ex-prisoners, but I retrained myself through that difficult time and made a positive outcome out of a negative situation.

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