COVER ART

Ronnie Goodman is a 54-year-old self-taught artist. He writes: I am sad to say I spent most of my life in and out of prisons battling drug addiction and struggling to find my own voice and way to a meaningful life. A twisted act of fate brought me to San Quentin State Prison on a ten-year term for burglary in 2003. There I signed up for the San Quentin Art Programs and the running club – that was the start of my new existence in life. I became a prolific artist and a long-distance runner, touched by the master artists and coaches who were my teachers and mentors. I was transformed into an artist and athlete, and not a prisoner. In 2010, I was released into society and into the despair of homelessness. However, a new life came to emerge through my running and creativity. My redemption: to contribute to raising the awareness of our social ills and to give back through my art and my running. I contribute by telling my story and donating my art – I recently donated a piece to the San Francisco Marathon as a fundraiser for Hospitality House, a homeless advocacy non-profit. My work and media stories about me can be viewed at http://www.ronniegoodman.com.

Front Cover: "The Boxer"
                 2009, linocut print on paper
                 Ronnie Goodman

"The Boxer" is a composition that I created at San Quentin Prison. I drew it from life – I saw something special there – a guy hitting a bag. While I was watching him I felt something. Perhaps it could be a metaphor for battling your demons, as many of us did in that place.

Back Cover: "Man at Work"
                 2014, linocut print on paper
                 Ronnie Goodman

"Man at Work" is inspired by a homeless man that I saw collecting two huge bags of bottles and cans making his way to the recycling centre. Our society looks down on people who do recycling, calling them "unsavoury characters". I tried to bring a different perspective – these are human beings, coming in early in the morning and doing their work. Just simple everyday life, but you never know why people's circumstances are the way they are.