

## COVER ART

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Having spent a lot of time in isolation armed with little more than a pencil, a good eye for detail and the imagination born of bare stone walls, I have had to think outside the box (quite literally). I have always tried to approach my work from a position of individuality and my attitude to art is a fearless one of trial and error. If I do not or cannot achieve what I am after, I absorb the learning curve and move onto something new. The ‘something new’ always fills me with a sense of excitement and nothing ever gets truly left behind. During these long years of confinement, art has been my one constant companion. Without its loyalty I would experience more of the pain and fear that shaped my life from a young age. I am no longer the product of my crime, but of my creativity. I survived the past, I am thankful for the present, and I now have a future. Fortunately, with the permission of the Governor, I have been afforded the opportunity to build a website (see <https://steeldoorstudios.com>) and it is our desire that this project becomes a beneficial platform for myself and other imprisoned people to find their creative voices, be able to share, connect and maybe one day return to the outside world, not as a tainted outcast, but as a useful and valued member of society with something to offer.

Front Cover: “Cell in Cell (Green Dreams)”

*Steel Door Studios*

Acrylic on canvas board

2020

I have drawn endless images of myself drawing myself. This practice speaks highly of the monotony endured within prison. In this piece, I implanted the fantasy of my eventual freedom.

Back Cover: “There Comes a Time”

*Steel Door Studios*

Acrylic on canvas board

2020

The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic was a dark time and if you think time passes slowly outside, in here the clock ticks are slower. This piece depressed the life out of me mainly as it is such an accurate account of my life. I have spent far too long incarcerated where the suspension of time

becomes the norm. Having also experienced the depths of despair a person can sink to I found myself one year finally giving up. Thankfully today my approach to killing time is a constructive activity where I depict life events using a positive process of self-reflection.