

Interested in helping an incarcerated loved one sell prison arts or crafts?

Below are some of the guidelines that are followed by BighouseArt.com that will help you in determining if BighouseArt.com is the right place to help your loved one through his or her artwork.

- Our purpose is to help as many inmates make store as possible. With that said, we do not purchase artwork at premium prices.
- If we are contacted by a 'representative' of an artist, the artist must notify us that the representative is authorized to conduct transactions. This is done to ensure that artists are compensated for their work. Without artist approval, we will not send funds to anyone but the artist.
- Payment is made after the items are received unless you are one of our established artists. If we don't know you; then we cannot trust your sincerity.
- The work of all new artists is scanned to ensure authenticity. If it is determined that an artist used a scan and simply 'drew' over it, no payment will be made, and the facility will be notified of the fraudulent activity with the intent to conduct business. (This can quickly freeze a trust account)
- We attempt to help our artists through the leasing of copyrights that can be used by our clients. All submissions must include a letter that gives us a copyright release so that we can negotiate on the artist's behalf. If a design is accepted for production, the artist will receive compensation above the purchase price of the artwork not to exceed 50% of the negotiated price. This is important as we assist inmates who do not have the artistic means to provide for themselves.
- Gang related artwork will not be considered.

If you have read our rules and are still interested in submitting samples of an artist's work, then please provide the following information:

Artist's Name & DOC Number
Artist's Mailing Address
Examples of Artwork
Size of Typical Piece
Medium (ink, graphite, watercolor, etc.)
Paper Type
Offered Price

*As our resources are limited, we cannot accept all submissions. Most of our artists have long-standing relationships with us, or have been referred by one of our established artists. With that said, our people always have first priority to our financial resources.

FAQS:

Q: Why did you start BighouseArt.com?

A: BighouseArt.com began as the ‘window to the world’ for incarcerated friends who were gifting artwork to my daughter and me. It was started as a way for their family and friends to be able to view their incredible talents. From there, it began to take on a life of its own as friends referred friends to me.

Q: I have artwork that was done by a friend in prison. Will you buy it?

A: Only if your friend tells us it is ok for you to sell it. Remember, we are here to help the artist and not the recipient of the artwork.

Q: What do you do with profits that you make?

A: We are a non profit organization so any money made that is not passed on to the artist is used to assist other inmates with education, basic needs, or to provide family assistance.

Q: Can I get more money from the sale of artwork through another means?

A: Possibly. First of all, collectors don’t look for ‘prison art’. They look for art that they are interested in. We do not pay collector prices as we are not collectors. Our purpose is to assist inmates with the meeting of their basic needs. If you are looking for collector pricing, check out a local gallery or try e-bay.

Q: Why do I have to provide a copyright release?

A: A drawing or painting can be sold one time. The leasing of a copyright can be sold again and again at a greater value. Since we have clients looking for motifs for clothing, book, or other designs, we do not have time to ask each artist of his or her intent, nor will we negotiate for copyright sale rights. If an artist does not wish to earn the additional royalties through the leasing of copyrights, we will simply pay for the artwork and then sell it as is. No additional compensation will be possible since the piece will not be submitted for review.

Q: How does the artist receive compensation?

A: Once a piece has been received and verified as original work, a deposit will be made to the artist’s trust fund unless other arrangements are made.