Module 2 – Art in Prison

Student:	

How do inmates spend their time in prison?

Art in Prison



There are many people in prisons around the world. Therefore, with the aim of rehabilitating, distracting, or preparing prisoners to rejoin society, many prisons have various programs for inmates. A common program in several prisons is "arts behind bars". "Arts behind bars" is not a single project, it is a set of workshops such as **needlework** in male prisons, art projects, or collaborative stage shows.

One of the objectives is to channel the strong feelings that lead to **confinement**, violence, or danger. All this trapped energy can stimulate the creativity of the prisoners and come out in the form of art as a way of reform or rehabilitation. Another objective is to build critical **awareness** and confidence by learning and mastering a skill.

Some prisons have live music presentations or shows where the prisoners are spectators.

Others have a great number of art projects created with and by prisoners. Some projects are the creation of literary works, paintings, and sculptures. An example of art created in prison is the film "Modelo estéreo" where Garo and My Friend, two ex-convicts, show the music that is created in the "La Modelo" prison in Colombia.

Retrieved from: https://oxfordre.com/criminology/abstract/10.1093acrefore/9780190264079.001.0001/acrefore-9780190264079-e-18 and https://www senalcolombia.tv/documental/grandes-obras-de-arte-quenacieron-en-la-carcel

VOCABULARY

Match the words with their correct definition.

Needlework.	knowing that something exists
Confinement	the situation in which a person or animal is kept somewhere, usually by force
Awareness	sewing decorative designs onto cloth and clothes

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Read the following questions and choose the correct option based on the reading.

What are the two purposes of art in prisons according to the text?

To channel the strong feelings

To have live music presentations or shows

To build critical awareness and confidence

To have a great number of art projects

What are the two roles that prisoners can have regarding "art behind bars"?

Spectators Prisoners ex-convicts Creators

How does the art program in prisons benefit society?

Prisoners learn to kill people.

Prisoners learn a skill.

Prisoners learn to cook.



LIVEWORKSHEETS