



'Damien 'Task' Seary - 2002, Guildford Grammar Anglican School, Perth Western Australia

Shifting Perception: A Turn Around

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Abstract

Personal creative expression provides new possibilities for those subject to the brutal, banal and demeaning effects of imprisonment. Equipped with incarceration language, prisons re-define their existence, yet art becomes a focal point for departure from the boundaries of their confinement. Unravelling these personal experiences often results in wild and explosive forms of expression where 'escape' is by virtue courting disassociation from the savage homogenisation of these environments. Liberation takes form across many genres, imbued with symbols and codes, often embedded with strong emotional discourse. The notion of 'escape' according to Damien 'Task' Seery (2002) is fully expedited when the cathartic separation of 'prison' through 'art' allows an inmate to flee from their predicament, build bridges over seemingly bottomless social and cultural divides, command feedback and foster self respect. Walls, cells, roll-calls, musters, and lockdowns fade into obscurity as new realities are privileged those willing to explore and investigate justice and equity through art.

Keywords

incarceration, imprisonment, justice, equity, art, law, society, equity, culture, expression

Biographies

Zoy Crizzle is the Co-ordinator of the Justice and Equity Through Art (JETA) program at the School of Art, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. Crizzle has worked in the prison system for over 15 years and has particular interest in extending the scope of curriculum delivery to integrate the tertiary sector with that of all others.

Alexander Hayes is a professional artist, researcher and educator with extensive curriculum development, teaching and mentor experience in juvenile justice settings, adult private and government funded prisons. Hayes is currently focussed on developing interactive multimedia, print media and public art graffiti programs for youth and adults at risk.

Damien 'Task' Seery is a renowned graffiti artist with Australian national and international standing. His creative works extend through to large public commissions, community engagement projects including the Swan City Youth Services (SCYS) in Midland, Perth Western Australia. Most recently he was awarded art facilitator roles with large government organisations and private schools including Guildford Grammar School, Perth Western Australia.