

# Collaboration Art- Riverbend, STAC and more

Barbara Fontana Yontz 2022

## Riverbend Maximum Security Institution Nashville, Tennessee

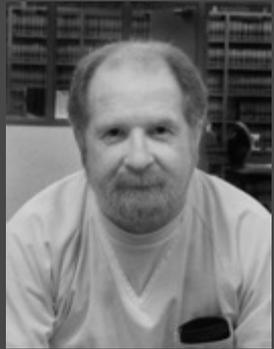
The overall mission of the prison is to house and manage high-risk male offenders to ensure the safety of the public, departmental employees and offenders while providing **rehabilitative programs.**



*Our class existed as one of the 'rehabilitative' programs.*



We started our program at Riverbend with 13 men on the inside of Unit 2, The Death Row Unit, and a group of artists and students from Watkins College of Art.



**FORM OF REFORM**

**JAN 2020 JUNE**

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
**FRIDAY JANUARY 17TH 4-7 PM**  
**CURB CENTER @ VANDERBILT**

COMMUNITIES FAMILIES PROFESSORS COURTS MEDIATORS THERAPEUTIC COUNSELORS  
 PROGRAM DIRECTORS US EDUCATORS CHANGE AGENTS SCHOOL BOARDS EMPLOYERS  
 OFFENDERS PARENTS YOUTH COMMUNITY BUILDERS VICTIMS

Another exhibition in Nashville was organized by the Curb Center at Vanderbilt University.

Included was much of the artwork done by the men in our class at Riverbend.

The Form of Reform, January 2020

Here are some of the works from that exhibition. Some had been exhibited previously.



Collaboration Drawing from the inside: Barbara Yontz, Robin Paris, Tom Williams, Wayne, Abu Ali, Akil, Donald,



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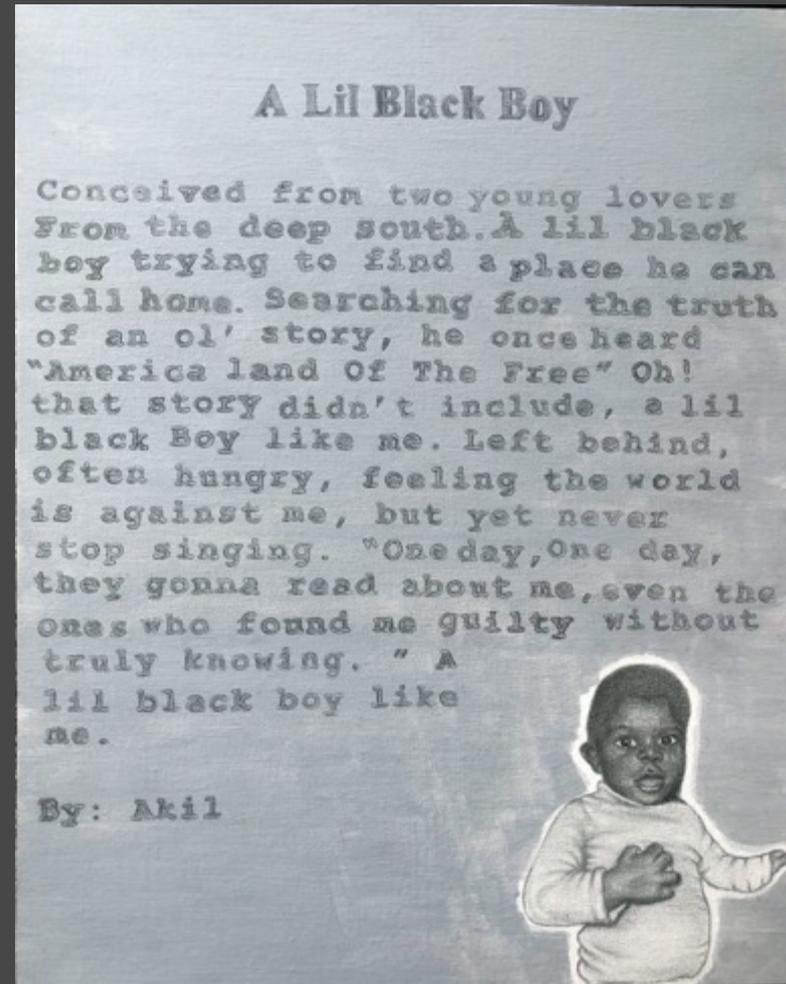


Graphite and color pencil drawings, Nick



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Sculpture of a shoe on grass, Akil (because they never walk on grass. Graphite drawing with poem, Akil.





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Collaborations: Lauren Ashley and Tyrone. Lauren did an internship in Ghana. She sent back photos that I printed and brought inside. Tyrone drew local birds on top.



Collaborations: Lauren Ashley and Tyrone. Lauren did an internship in Ghana. She sent back photos that I printed and brought inside. Tyrone drew on top. These are from a slave transport station.

Lauren Hernandez, STAC student and Tyrone





Collaborations: The Gift, Barbara Yontz, the men on Unit 2. The men made these origami butterflies for me when my mother died. I used them to create this sculpture. Paper, Hog Gut, Steel, Silk Thread.



Abu Ali, mixed media sculpture with sound. Tells a mythic story of his Native American tradition.



Installation shots.

Riverbend closed our class in March of 2020 because of the Pandemic. We have not been able to reenter the prison. In the mean-time I have been corresponding via letters. Much has happened.