

# WINDOWS ON DEATH ROW

ART FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS

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**For immediate release**



Armando Macias (b. 1976). San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, California  
*Untitled (Blue Cell)*. Ink on paper, 9" x 11 5/8"

## **EXHIBIT:**

February 2–March 21, 2016  
Art Gallery & Aquarium Lounge,  
FPG Student Union

## **KEYNOTE:**

February 2, 2016  
6:30–7:30pm  
Great Hall, FPG Student Union

## **OPENING RECEPTION:**

February 2, 2016  
7:30–9:00pm  
Art Gallery & Aquarium Lounge,  
FPG Student Union

View more than 70 artworks by people living on Death Row and by top editorial cartoonists in a one-of-a-kind exhibition organized by project founders Anne-Frédérique Widmann and Patrick Chappatte. The opening reception will include remarks by Widmann and by a special guest, Ndume Olatushani, a painter and former Death Row inmate who spent 28 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of murder.

There are currently 3,000 Americans awaiting execution, 148 of which in North Carolina. North Carolina enacted the death penalty in 1910 and has sentenced over 1,000 individuals to death row. Although a majority of Americans still approve of capital punishment, those numbers have begun to decline. Several high-profile DNA-based exonerations of death row inmates, a recent string of botched executions, and an increased concern over patterns of racial discrimination have contributed to a growing discussion about the effectiveness, as well as the human and financial costs of the death penalty.

The inmates whose work is included in the show were asked to draw and paint their daily lives and personal experiences in prison. Widmann and Chappatte visited maximum security prisons, organized an art workshop on death row, and received works from inmates incarcerated in Texas, California, Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

The founders also invited a dozen of America's top political cartoonists to share their take on the issue. Among those featured are: Pat Oliphant and Jeff Danziger (syndicated worldwide), David Horsey (Los Angeles Times), Jack Ohman (Sacramento Bee), KAL (The Economist, Baltimore Sun), Mike Luckovich (Atlanta Constitution), Ann Telnaes (Washington Post), Matt Wuerker (Politico), Joel Pett (Lexington Herald-Leader), Clay Bennett (Chattanooga Times Free Press), Rob Rogers (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette),

and Scott Stantis (Chicago Tribune). Their work offers a sharp and witty point of view on the ongoing debate about capital punishment in America.

The resulting collection of work offers testimonies and insights from a world that is beyond our imaginations. For the exhibition at UNC-Chapel Hill, Widmann, an investigative journalist and documentary filmmaker, and Chappatte, editorial cartoonist for the International New York Times, have partnered with Anne Hromadka a Los Angeles-based independent curator. This collaboration has led to the creation of an exhibition experience that fosters dialogue. Widmann and Chappatte say: "We hope to contribute to a necessary debate that is not only taking place inside the United States, but also between America and the rest of the Western democracies."

Presented by UNC Student Life & Leadership. Organized by Patrick Chappatte (International NYTimes cartoonist) and Anne-Frédérique Widmann (Swiss Journalist). Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is glad to support this project, which aims at fostering inclusive and constructive debates on the death penalty. In collaboration with the Carolina Union Activities Board, the Summer Reading Program and Frank Baumgartner Ph.D. of the Political Science Department. Artwork was gathered with the help of Compassion, R.E.A.C.H., Minutes Before Six, Who Decides Inc., Witness to Innocence, and Art for Justice. Also sponsored by Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

#### **AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS**

**Former Death Row Inmate:**

Ndume Olatushani  
ndumeo@yahoo.com

**Co-founder of Windows on Death Row:**

Anne-Frederique Widmann  
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#### **ADDITIONAL CONTACTS**

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