

Luanne Bole-Becker
Scraps = Life / Haiti

I feel that life in Haiti is like traveling back centuries. Little modern conveniences. Limited manufacturing and resources.

Sustenance in the island nation often relies upon scrounging and repurposing. This includes repurposing lives.

I chose to deconstruct an old produce crate as the foundation for this image taken in Haiti in 2006. Like the photograph it frames, the wooden structure is full of texture, hinting at previous lives and purpose.

Luanne Bole-Becker
Red Lament

Red Lament has been bubbling up for nearly a year.

It is a piece about items and lives left to decay. Uncared for. Neglected. Atrophied. Everything changes from what once was. In the best case, transformation brings about a deeper beauty and strength.

The photograph was taken at the Mansfield Reformatory. It is a scene of some poignancy in the movie "Shawshank Redemption," echoing light and life stripped to its barest. There are whispers of life becoming unbearable, but also a quiet persistence of moving on unflinchingly.

What imprisons us creates barriers of separation in both time and space. I recessed the image to emphasize isolation and a sense of viewing from a distance.

The physical foundation of this artwork is a vintage tin ceiling panel with years of unplanned, unparalleled rust patterns.

The barbed wire—a tool of imprisonment and pain—is rusted. It holds a raw and foreboding beauty.

The keys are heavy and rusted. While not always perceived as "beautiful," they are respected for their paradoxical functions of restriction, protection, and freedom.

The juxtaposed locket reflects the beauty of more intricate, unblemished detail. The words inside help crystallize all that surrounds them.

In terms of this particular exhibit, the primary materials in this piece have all been discarded and repurposed: the tin panel, the barbed wire, the wooden frame and mat, the dictionary pages. But there is also the importance of reclaiming and rediscovering those whose lives have been transformed within prison.