



***Razor Wire* Exhibition Curated by Shaun T. Griffin**
Opens at Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas
Exhibition on Display December 6, 2018 through January 23, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2018—LAS VEGAS Nev.,—Nevada Humanities presents [*Razor Wire*](#), an exhibition curated by Shaun T. Griffin, at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas. This exhibition, which opens on December 6, 2018, will feature recent art and poetry from the *Razor Wire Poetry Workshop* held at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City and is part of the Nevada Humanities Exhibition Series. The *Razor Wire Poetry Workshop* is led by Griffin and offered to incarcerated men who learn to articulate their life experiences through creating poetry and art. The *Razor Wire* exhibition will feature a range of works in a variety of mediums, from acrylic painting, pen and ink drawings, pastel drawings, and many poems from the last few years of the workshop. The new issue of *Razor Wire*, the journal produced periodically from the art and poetry created in the workshop, will also be featured. Current and past issues of the *Razor Wire* journal will be available at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery.

Griffin, noted Nevada poet, editor, and community leader states, “I started this workshop in 1989, and it is the primary artistic outlet on the yard. Since its inception, more than 150 men have participated, and to my knowledge, only two have returned to prison, albeit briefly, for minor parole violations. That is fairly remarkable on a yard where the recidivism rate is frequently over 50%.” Griffin adds that he hopes that the *Razor Wire* exhibition will inspire his students to keep writing. “Outside of the workshop their lives spiral to small things—walking, sleeping, eating—but having an identity beyond the yard, especially that of being an artist, is lifesaving. These kinds of exhibitions let the men know they have value and by inference, their art does too.”

An **opening reception and curators’ talk for *Razor Wire*** will be held at **7 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2018**, as part of the exhibition reception from **6 to 9 p.m.** at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery. Additionally, poets Cornell Wilkins, Durrell Grier, and Glynn Scott will read from their work following Griffin’s remarks.

“*Razor Wire* offers a rare and meaningful glimpse into the lives and hearts of incarcerated poets and artists who do not often have a forum for their creativity,” said Christina Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities. “This exhibition demonstrates the power of the humanities to give meaning and voice to people seeking agency in their lives.”

Razor Wire will be on display at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, which is located in the Art Square Garden Courtyard downtown in the Las Vegas Arts District at 1017 S. First Street, #190. The Nevada Humanities Program Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 5 p.m., and until 9 p.m. on Preview Thursdays and the first Friday of each month.

About Nevada Humanities: Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to Nevadans and their communities. For more information about Nevada Humanities visit nevadahumanities.org.

Contact at Nevada Humanities:

Bobbie Ann Howell, Program Manager, bahowell@nevadahumanities.org, 702-800-4670

###

