

Disrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline, by Ndume Olatushani

Art selection and comment by [Lil Copan](#) in the [April 12, 2017](#) issue



Photo by Maria Penrod

During Lent, an exhibit of the Stations of the Cross in Washington, D.C., invites pilgrims to keep vigil. An app called *Alight: Art and the Sacred* provides maps and GPS to help the pilgrim locate stations in museums and churches, at memorials, and along streets. The first station, located across from the Supreme Court building, features *Disrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline*, by artist and former death row prisoner Ndume Olatushani. After serving 27 years for a murder he didn't commit, Olatushani had his sentence overturned in 2012. "I'm not claiming to be Jesus Christ, but I know what it is like to be persecuted and almost executed," says Olatushani. Using chicken wire, he molded orange prison jumpsuits into prisoners bowed and writhing in agony. A figure in a jumpsuit, seated next to two figures dressed in hoodies, represents the one in three black men who are incarcerated in the United States.