

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

Culture

Using art to transcend prison walls

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For info -
Aven

PAD, CALIF.

ural class is part
California initiative to
ure inmates' creativity

TRICIA LEIGH BROWN

than most artists, the men who
twice a week for mural class in
Facility are accustomed to dark-
the scene they are creating — a
al rain forest — requires color and
lements in short supply at Salinas
7 State Prison.

on't have much of a legacy," Jeff-
utton, who is serving 41 years for
d robbery, said of his life. "This is
thing positive that helps me focus
ting out," he added, daubing flecks
en onto the leaves of a jungle vine.
e mural class for high-level
ers is part of a new initiative by
ate of California to bring the arts —
ing Native American beadwork,
visational theater, graphic novels
ongwriting — to all 35 of its adult
ns, from the Richard J. Donovan
ecutional Facility near the Mexican
er to Pelican Bay, the infamous su-
ax just shy of the Oregon line.
a political climate in which federal
agencies are under siege, the state
located \$6 million annually for the
in Corrections program, a figure set



...most prisoners/... of the old ...