

Autumn Koestler Associates Newsletter 2018

At the Koestler Arts Centre we have had an incredibly busy couple of months! Since we last wrote to you all our judging has been completed; we have had over 70 feedback volunteers helping to give feedback for as many of your entries as possible; we have decorated the house with all your wonderful artwork as part of Open House London 2018; and our national exhibition has been curated, installed and opened to the public!

We are now working on getting all 2018 certificates printed; organising the thousands of hand-written feedback sheets to return to our entrants; hosting events at our national exhibition; selling entries in our pop-up shop; and looking towards our regional exhibitions!



The Exhibition: *I'm Still Here*

Royal Festival Hall, 19 September – 4 November

Our annual national exhibition is now up and in full swing! This year it showcases 220 entries, across a huge range of media including: matchstick models, poems, paintings, soap carvings, hip-hop/grime/rap, animation and mixed media (plus many more!). It's an incredibly colourful and exciting show!

Our Curators

Barbara, Cynthia, Saffron, Jevontae, Julie, Leah, Anne, Janet and Becky

This year we have worked with 9 curators, across 5 family groups, who have all supported a loved one in prison. The groups are made up of the core supporter(s) of current and recently released prisoners and include a close friend, 3 mothers, a wife, sisters, nieces and a nephew.

Each group was asked to select 1 object as inspiration for their selection. The objects symbolise aspects of the families' own experiences of supporting a loved one in prison. With their object in mind, each family spent a day at the Koestler Arts Centre selecting around 40 artworks from the 7,235 entries submitted to the 2018 Koestler Awards. Their selections explore how each family managed, or are managing, to keep their relationship strong across prison walls.

'The most important message from me personally is that regardless of the crime, we're all (as a family) doing the time.' (Saffron, curator)

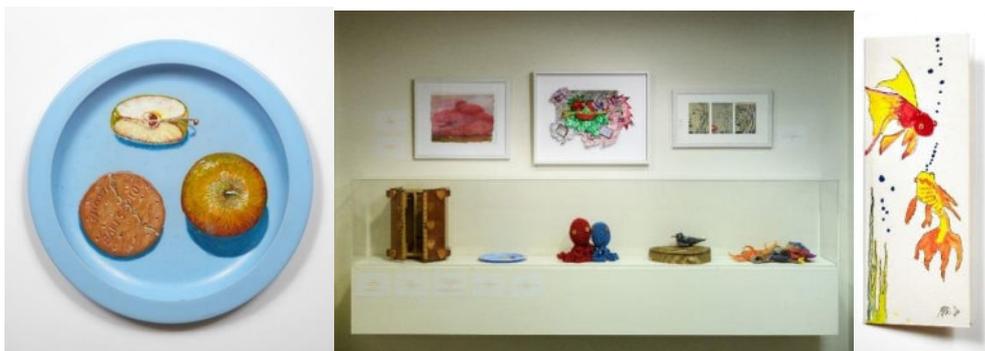
Cynthia, Saffron and Jevontae's selection was inspired by a speech written by their loved one to be read as a surprise at Cynthia (his mum's) wedding.



Barbara's selection was inspired by a telephone – the lifeline between her and her son.



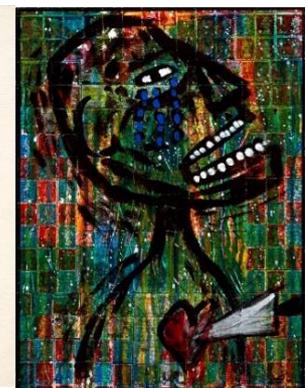
Becky's selection was inspired by the 'hundreds, if not thousands' of handmade greeting cards her partner sent during his time inside.



Janet's selection was inspired by a cherished book of quotations, which gave inspiration for daily emails between her and her son.



Julie, Leah and Anne's selection was inspired by a paintbrush, signifying the role the arts have in holding and bringing their family together.



The public opening was a huge success! Hundreds of visitors joined us for performances by Vox Liminis and speeches from the Lord Chancellor with Jeremy Wright MP Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.



The 2018 Awards

A Selection of Our Winning Entries

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part in our 2018 Koestler Awards – the standard of work has been incredibly high! The judges have had the tough job of choosing the winners for each of our 52 categories. Here is a selection of some of our winning entries:



Team Building at Bronzefield
HM Prison Bronzefield
Platinum Award for Painting



Nebu Eye
HM Prison Nottingham
Ed King Silver Award for Painting (Exhibited Artwork)



The Penguin
The Bracton Centre
Silver Award for Painting for Watercolour & Gouache



Family Tree
HM Prison Shotts
Patrick Holmes Platinum Award for Painting (Exhibited Artwork)



Cherry Blossom
River House Medium Secure Unit
Bethlem Royal Hospital
Ariane Bankes Platinum Award for Portrait

Study of a Male Face
HM Prison Whatton
Brent Silver Award for Portrait





Looking Out
HM Prison Hewell
Platinum Award for Drawing



My Family Adventure Dreamland
Bracton Centre
Platinum Award for Mixed Media



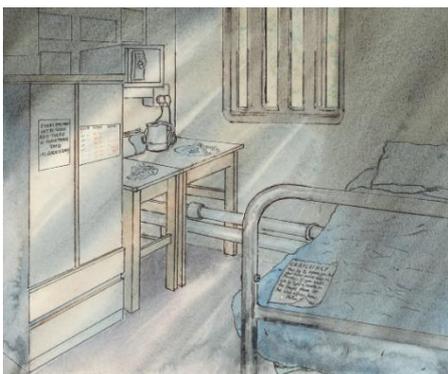
One Day
HM Prison Isle of Wight (Albany)
Platinum Award for Craft



Taj Mahal
HM Prison Dovegate
Platinum Award for Ceramics



Air Punch
HM Prison Maidstone
Platinum Award for Sculpture



Bad News
Exeter Probation Service
Clara Alman Platinum Award
for Watercolour & Gouache
(Exhibited Artwork)



Thoughts on a Sunny Day
HM Prison Edinburgh
David Astor Gold Award for Handmade Book (Exhibited Artwork)