

Koestler Associates Newsletter Winter 2020

Season's Greetings from Koestler Arts!

As 2020 draws to a close, we are celebrating your fantastic creative achievements in this year's Koestler Awards, and looking forward to an exciting exhibition programme and another year of talent and creativity in 2021.

We hope you enjoy reading the last Associates newsletter of 2020, and wish you all a happy and healthy festive season and new year!



Winter is Coming, HM Prison Woodhill, Painting

Reminder

Please note that to remain an Associate you must enter the 2021 Awards. If for any reason you are unable to enter, or simply don't wish to this year, but would like to remain an Associate, please write to us to let us know. Please also let us know about changes to your address and contact details, so we can ensure future Associates newsletters, certificates, feedback, awards and sales money, and returned artwork reach you!

For this or any other queries, you can always:

- **write to us for free at:** FREEPOST Koestler Arts
- **email:** info@koestlerarts.org.uk
- **call:** 020 8740 0333

2021 Koestler Awards

As a Koestler Associate we hope you'll be excited to enter our Awards again in 2021, and to encourage others to do so. Enclosed with this letter are the resources you will need. Thank you so much for helping us spread the word about our work, we really appreciate your continued support, and can't wait to start receiving your entries in the new year!

Entrants can send visual artwork, writing and music to us from January until the deadline on 22nd April 2021. It is important that every entry is sent with a corresponding entry form, and that every entry form has been signed by a member of prison or probation staff.

The enclosed resources include:

- **Guidance notes** explaining the terms and conditions of entering the Awards: what you can enter, how to enter, our artform categories, and the awards cycle timeline.
- **Entry forms.** Each entrant can enter up to 5 pieces of work, in any of our artform categories. If you don't want to enter 5 pieces, you can always pass some of these forms on to someone else to use.
- **Posters.** We would be really grateful if you could help us to promote this year's Awards by displaying these on your wing, in your education department, or at your probation office, and telling someone who doesn't know about Koestler how to get involved.

These materials are also being sent to education departments in establishments, so you can direct others who are interested in entering to get entry forms from there, or to write to us to be sent them directly.

Themed Category

In case you missed it... for 2021 our themed category is '**Together**'. We're looking forward to seeing lots of different interpretations in the work it inspires!

Art Aid

In response to the coronavirus lockdown, we have been sharing Art Aid activity sheets with simple creative tasks that can be done in cell. We know how important creativity is to our entrants so we wanted to provide some inspiration in a very difficult time. Each sheet includes a task devised by a current or former Koestler mentee, and some information about their own story and experience with Koestler Arts.

A new sheet is added to our website on the first Monday of every month, and we include the most recent sheet with each Associates newsletter - we hope you'll enjoy the December task enclosed. Please contact a member of your education department if you'd like to see more and can't access our website.

Arts Mentoring

If you're inspired by Steve's story in the December Art Aid sheet and would like to find out more about our arts mentoring scheme and how to apply, please write to: Ellie Donaldson FREEPOST Koestler Arts.

2020 Koestler Award Winners

We published the 2020 Koestler Awards results on our website in October. If you aren't able to access this you can write to us directly to find out if your entries won awards. We are currently sending out certificates, feedback and prize money to education departments in establishments and individuals in the community so these should be with you very soon! Many thanks again to all of those who entered this year, and a huge congratulations to award winners!

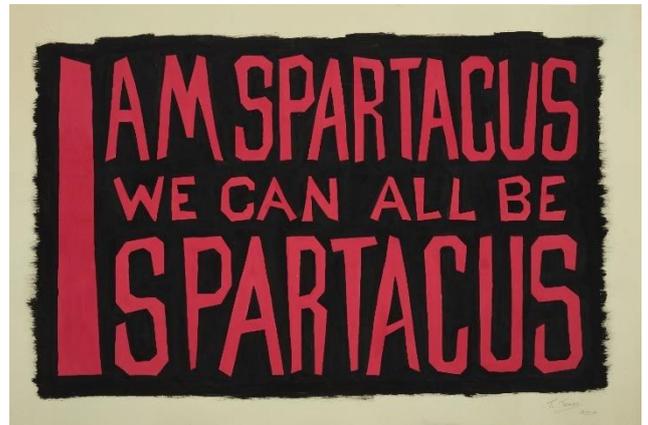
We wanted to celebrate your fantastic achievements in the 2020 awards and perhaps inspire future creative work by sharing some of this year's award winning entries. Below is a selection of top award winning work made by Koestler Associates, across a range of artform categories. Many of you also excelled in our writing and music categories, which are difficult to share in this newsletter format. We hope to work with education staff to share a wider range of your wonderful entries within establishments over the coming year.



Window of Opportunity,
HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Parc,
Platinum Award for Ceramics



Memories of HMP Holloway 1852-2016, 2 (1 of 3),
London Community Rehabilitation Company - Hackney
and Islington, Platinum Award for Digital Art



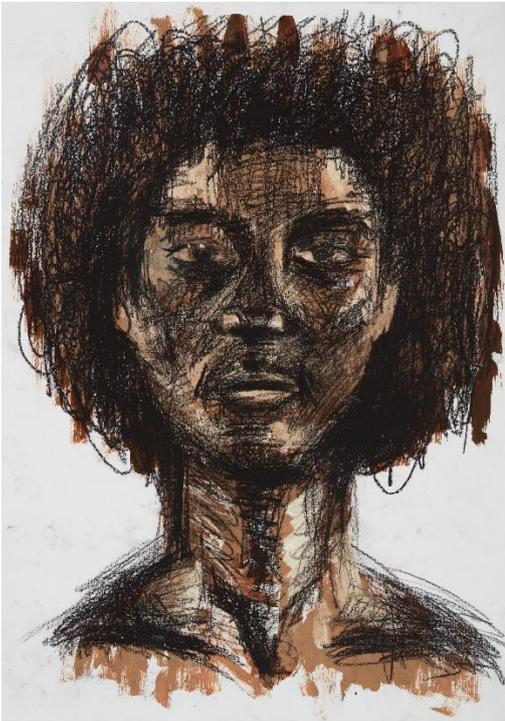
To Trumbo, National Probation Service West
Sussex, Platinum Award for Calligraphy



Happy Lizzies, HM Prison Warren Hill,
Bronze Award for Craft



Panad R'òl Cinio - Cuppa After Lunch,
HM Prison Rye Hill, Gold Award for Drawing



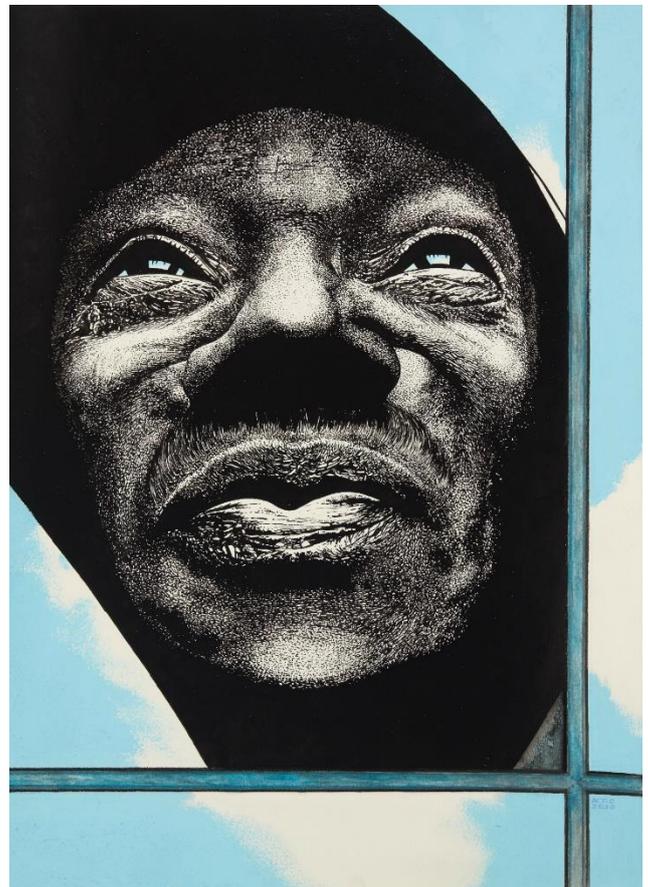
Blacker the Berry, HM Prison Erlestoke, Platinum Award for Portrait



The Round Stuff, HM Prison Glenochil, Platinum Award for Handmade Book



“3” Sisters Cubed, HM Prison Wayland, Platinum Award for Painting



Picture Window, HM Prison Oakwood, Silver Award for Themed Category: Window

Look At Me

I get out of a bed that’s been shaped by men before me,
I wear the clothes of a thousand men before me.

I eat food I would not choose to eat,
I stand in a shower where thousands have stood.

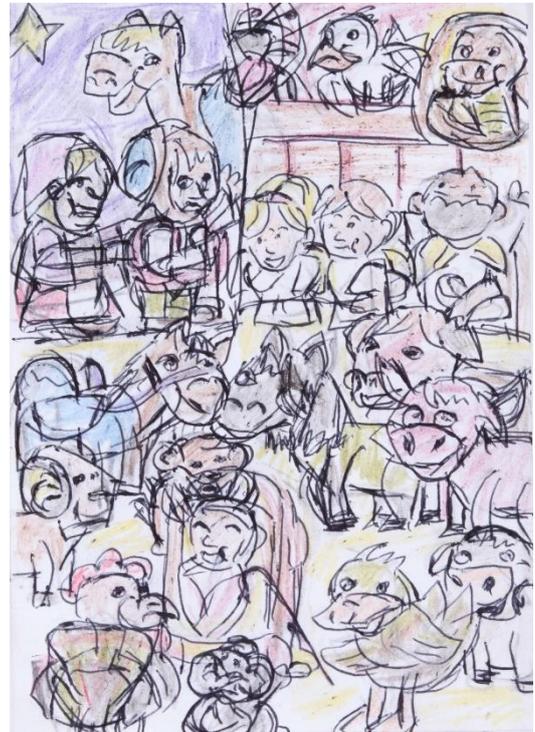
I walk in a way I no longer recognise,
I am not me I am you.

One of the thousands of men before you,
So I look in the mirror and they all look back at me.

Look At Me, HM Prison The Verne, Platinum Award for Poem

What Prison Sounds Like

Prison sounds like the worst campsite
You ever pitched your tent on by mistake.
Noise pitches like the Hull to Rotterdam ferry
When United are playing Ajax away.
Prison sounds like a kicked door in a bad dream;
The forgotten magician's assistants,
Left inside locked wooden crates on darkened stages.
Adidas drumbeats. A samba rhythm.
Prison sounds like a house without a doorbell;
"D-WING GATE!" "C-WING STAFF!" "MEDICATION!"
There are no 'inside voices' when you are inside,
All voices are turned up to eleven.
Prison sounds like the angry drunken man
You'd cross a hundred streets, whole towns, to avoid.
Or it can rumble like all of the music swirled together;
Gangsta rap, death metal, and the nostalgic love songs
That remind you of who isn't here.
Prison sounds like the TV draw for the FA Cup,
The daily 'click-click-click' of pool balls:
"Prisoner E4981JE ... Will be away at Oakwood".
But then, but then ...
On other days, prison sounds like nothing at all,
Like the emptiness of distant space.
It sounds like the surprising silence
Of a dropped clock, that's forgotten how to tick.
Or it whispers like playing hide and seek as a kid,
Your own breath loud in your ears. Still. Waiting.
And a nagging fear that everyone else went home,
And perhaps you'll never, ever, be found.



Being Equal @ Festive Time (1 of 7), HM Prison Leeds, Silver Award for Handmade Greetings Card

What Prison Sounds Like, HM Prison Oakwood, Platinum Award for Poem



Several States of Mind, HM Prison Dartmoor, Silver Award for Sculpture



Goldrush Train, HM Prison Glenochil, Bronze Award for Matchstick Model

No Lockdown in the Imagination

Our annual showcase of work entered into the Koestler Awards is on display at the Southbank Centre, London, until 13th December. 'No Lockdown in the Imagination' is an outdoor display of around 60 works across the site's windows. Most works are represented by large scale high definition photographs, enabling us to showcase the intricate details of smaller pieces, with many of these images visible from across the River Thames. A number of music and spoken word pieces play on speakers around the site.



Photo by James Gifford-Mead



The works are also available to view and hear on our website, where visitors can hear audio captions with more information about the inspiration behind the works, and leave feedback which we forward on to the artists.



Photos by Takis Zontiros

“Being selected for the exhibition - it was extraordinary...It's very difficult to talk about something that has happened in your past that was quite dark, so when you put it in a painting and I know that people are going to see that, I hope they understand - not just for me but for everyone who goes through the criminal justice system - that it's difficult.”
- Exhibited Artist

2021 Exhibitions

We are thrilled to have an exciting programme of exhibitions planned for 2021, showcasing more fantastic entries to the 2020 Koestler Awards around the UK. Whilst these plans are subject to change according to future government restrictions, we are hopeful many visitors around the country will get the opportunity to see and appreciate our entrants' talent and creativity.

January - May: Millennium Gallery, Sheffield

'My Path' will be Koestler Arts' first ever Yorkshire exhibition. It has been curated by a group of young people under supervision with Sheffield Youth Justice Service, who have selected works relating to themes of the self and the planet - the small and the vast.

A small selection of the exhibited works will then be displayed in Ripon Prison and Police Museum, North Yorkshire across the summer months.

January - June: The National Justice Museum, Nottingham

A selection of Koestler Awards entries will be displayed alongside pieces from the Museum's own collection, in exploration of the theme of 'power' and the question: 'Where does the power come from in a work of art?'

HOME, Manchester

Plans are underway for an exhibition of artwork by Koestler entrants across the North West of England as part of the 'Ripples of Hope' festival of human rights at HOME in Manchester.



Room With a View, HM Prison Full Sutton, Themed Category: Window