

KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

Season's Greetings from Koestler Arts!

Koestler Arts + Art Aid sheets suggest creative tasks that can be done in-cell. For most all you need is paper and a pencil - though if you have further materials please use them.

Please note that the 2022 Koestler Awards will begin accepting entries from 1 January until 7 April.

Art Aid sheets will continue to be produced on a monthly basis. New Art Aid sheets will be available from the first Monday of every month.

For each Art Aid sheet Koestler Arts are commissioning an artist/writer who has directly engaged with Koestler to set a creative task.

December 2021

The task was set by Koestler Award winner, exhibited writer and mentee, Simon.

My Story

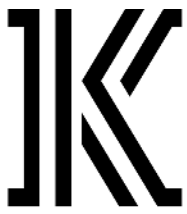
Prison gave me time to reflect. I thought about the harm I'd done to myself and to others, the talents I'd wasted and... what was I going to do with the rest of my life?

I did a lot thinking, a fair bit of praying, learnt how to meditate and began writing. I started entering stuff into competitions including the Koestler Awards and I had some modest success.

Whilst I was good at some things I also realised I wasn't so good at others. When I was about 11 a teacher told me I was useless at drawing and I believed him. For the next 50 years I didn't attempt to draw. Then whilst I was at HMP Hull another teacher told me that ANYONE can draw! It just involved learning some basic techniques and practicing. I enrolled on the art course and passed.



I will never be competition for Banksy but I learnt a life lesson. I now know that I can try anything and if I apply myself and practice I will get better. It has opened up a whole new world to me. Thank you so much to that brilliant art teacher at HMP Hull who taught me much more than how to draw.



My Task - Drawing Stories

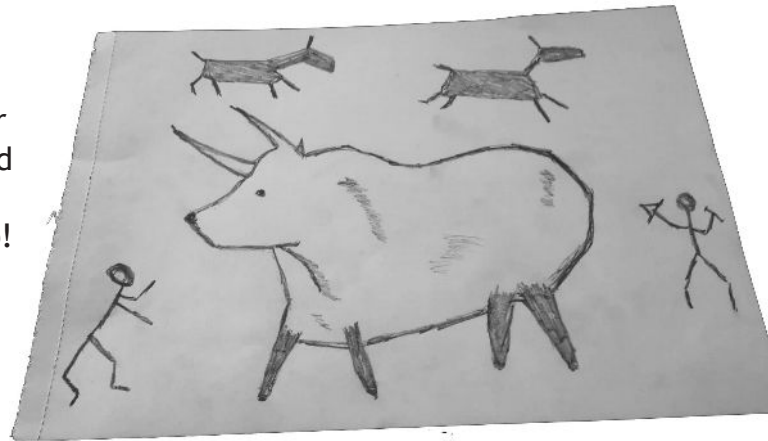
Since the dawn of time humans have scratched images of the world around them to express the way they feel and to make sense of their existence. Examples of cave art go back over 64000 years to Neanderthal man. Presumably none of those early “artists” went to art school or were told that they were “artistic”.

The modern world has taught us to view artists, sculptors, writers and poets as somehow special or magically gifted as if they were somehow sprinkled with fairy dust. I would encourage you to reject this as nonsense and just let your creativity let rip!

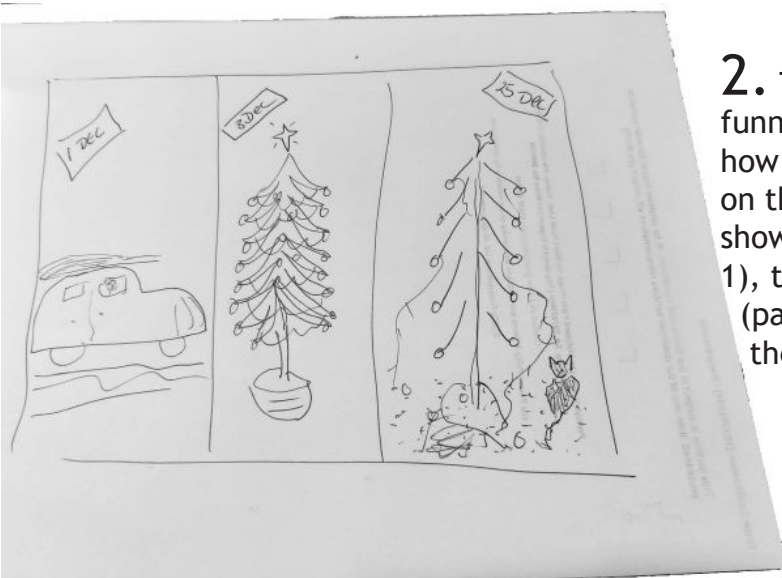
As it's Christmas let's have some fun.

1. Take a pen or pencil and piece of paper and divide it into three sections. This allows the process of storytelling to take place.

(1.How things are at the beginning. 2.What happens in the middle. 3.How things are at the end)



2. Think about some aspect of Christmas you find funny, moving or just plain ridiculous and think about how you can express this in 3 parts. In the example on the left I have done a little Christmas tree story showing the tree being bought on 1 December (panel 1), the tree being decorated on 3 December (panel 2) and the tree shedding all its needles by the 25 December (panel 3).



3. Express your story in quick drawings. You can choose to use text or you can let the images speak for themselves.

If you do not celebrate Christmas use another winter festival or theme.

Sometimes it might work better in two panels or even one. Some rules are made to be broken! Do what works best for you. Have fun and if you have doubts about your ability to draw just remember that caveman thousands of years ago who was never judged and never went to art school. Merry Christmas.

