

KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

Hello 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.

The 2022 Koestler Awards deadline has passed (7 April 2022) and Awards results will be available on our website from 31 August.

We are continuing to produce Art Aid sheets on a monthly basis in the hope that they will continue to inspire you to be creative. For each Art Aid sheet Koestler Arts are commissioning an artist/writer who has directly engaged with Koestler to set a creative task.

New Art Aid sheets will be available from the first Monday of every month.

August 2022

This task was set by Koestler Award winner, exhibited writer and former mentee, Christopher.

My Story

Sent to Wandsworth at the age of 70 in a very cold January, the first 4 weeks were truly indescribable. Relief to the whiteness of complete boredom (23.5 hours a day in a freezing - no windows - cell sharing with someone who spoke no word of English) came with the opportunity to visit the Library. Walking into that oasis of life, I was surprised to see a group of inmates round a table with a woman. She turned and invited me to join the creative writing group. Immediate acceptance resulted in being sat down, handed a pen and paper and asked to write a story based on 3 clues about a body.

It was the start of a totally new world for me. Later I was invited to submit 5 pieces to Koestler. Feedback and Awards came back and I was off.

Upon release I was given the opportunity to join the Koestler Mentoring Programme and even greater clarity to my work, and therefore life, followed. It wasn't prison that changed my imagination it was writing and Koestler. Creatively, I will never be the same as I was and that has to be an amazingly good thing.

I say "Thank You" every day.

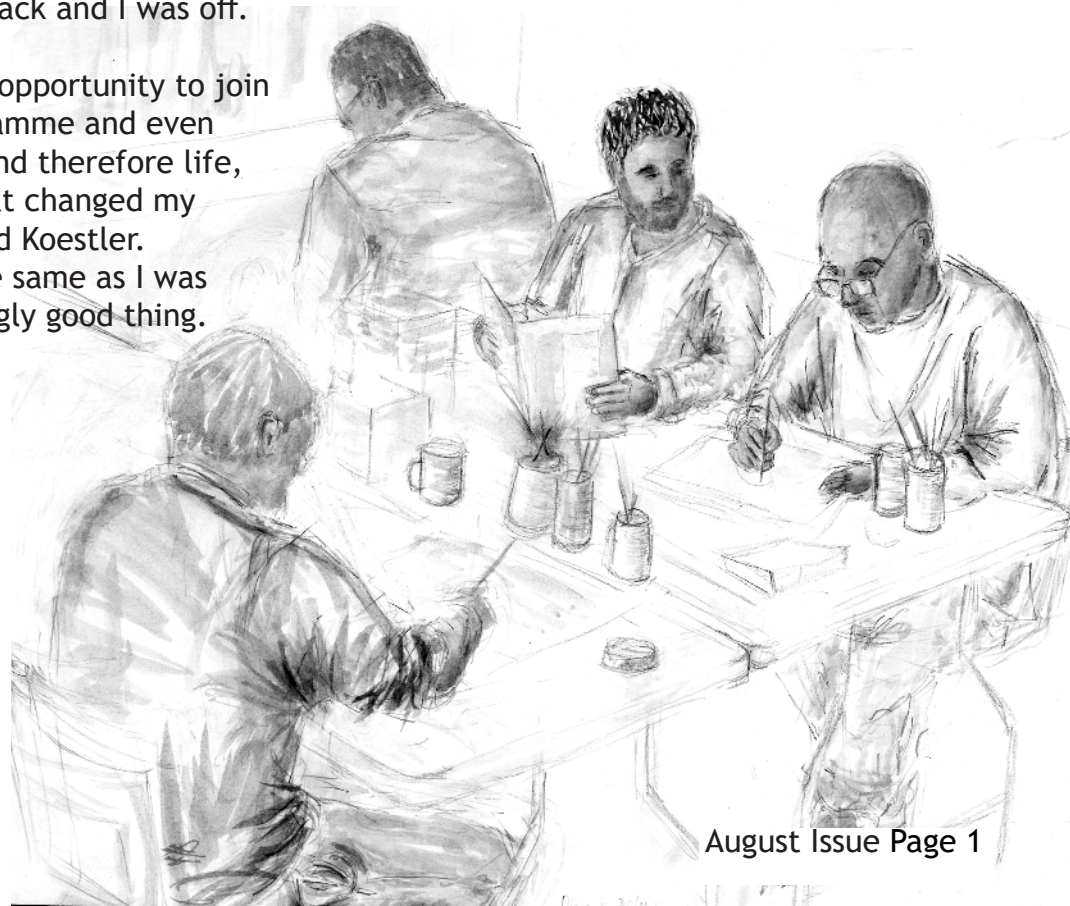


Image: *Learning*, HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Parc, Highly Commended Award for Watercolour & Gouache, 2021



Photo by Christopher

The 10 items are: girl on rock statuette, orange, book, tape measure, toy soldier/piper, toothbrush, seashell, glasses case, matchbox, plate/dish

Artists need inspiration. For creative writers it can be just a little spark to set the imagination free.

Look at the picture and select any 3 items. It is not necessarily the item itself but can be what it represents. For example, the toy soldier/piper could be real or a toy - so too the girl on the rock. Let your imagination flourish.

Write a piece (short story, poem, imagined critique or what you wish) that includes all 3 of the items selected in any form or way that comes to mind. They do not have to be fundamental to the work but they must be mentioned in it.

Good luck but most of all enjoy yourself.