



# KOESTLER ARTS - ART AID

Koestler Arts produce monthly Art Aid sheets featuring creative tasks that can be done in cell with just paper and a pencil. New sheets are available from the first Monday of every month.

We are now accepting entries to the 2025 Koestler Awards! Send your entries and signed entry forms to 'FREEPOST Koestler Arts' by 11 April 2025. Entry forms should be enclosed with this sheet, and you can contact your education department or Koestler Arts to be sent more. See our guidance notes for full terms and conditions.

## APRIL 2025

For each Art Aid sheet, we commission an artist or writer who has engaged with Koestler Arts to set a creative task and share their experience with creativity. This month we asked Koestler Award winner, exhibited artist and former mentee, Colin.

### My Story

After leaving prison, my probation officer encouraged me to enter the Koestler Awards after seeing some of my drawings. I was extremely shocked and elated when not only did my artwork receive Awards, but one of my paintings was exhibited at Koestler's national exhibition!

This gave hope during a time that lacked future and purpose. My success with the Koestler Awards prompted me to apply for their mentoring scheme and I was overjoyed to be accepted onto the scheme in 2023 and begin an amazing art journey with them.

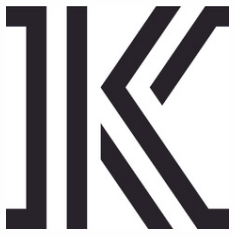
The mentoring scheme facilitated trips to art galleries and events, and I got to see some incredible works of art that were so transformative and inspiring for my art practice.

Koestler Arts also facilitated my engagement with national and international exhibitions. I have successfully exhibited work twice at their national exhibition in London, at the Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead in 2023, at Paper Chained International art exhibition, Sydney, Australia in 2024 and at Superordinary Gallery, Brisbane, Australia in 2025.

To assist in my creative process, I often take reference photographs of places to help remember and reinforce the time and mood. These images are invaluable when it comes to informing and creating new artwork when I am at home. It is one of these photos that forms the basis for this Art Aid sheet.



*Fish Pond, 2023*



## My Task: Creative Response

Respond to my photograph of Caerphilly Castle with a piece of creative work of your own. This is a simple and open-ended task designed to let your imagination and creativity run free.



Here are some ideas for your creative response, but feel free to think of your own:

- Draw or paint your own version of the photograph
- Create a new artwork or piece of writing inspired by the castle, or by the shapes, textures, or mood of the photograph
- Add colour or embroidery to the photograph itself
- Tear the image and re-assemble the pieces to create a collage
- Write a poem, short story, or piece of music set in this scene

Images often evoke a unique emotional response in the viewer. Try using that to inspire your work. Good luck!

You don't need to send your responses to these tasks to us at Koestler, we just hope you'll enjoy giving them a go. If you do we'll be very happy to see them but please note they will only be entered into this year's Koestler Awards if they are sent with signed entry forms.