

# Koestler Associates Update - December 2016

**Welcome** to our first *Associates Update*. This is our first Associates pack. We want the content to evolve and be influenced by you, our Associates. Please let us know your ideas for future content and help us inspire others to share their work through the Koestler Awards. Entry forms, posters and guidance notes will be mailed out in the new year.

## 2017 UK Exhibition

One of the UK's most well-known artists, Sir Antony Gormley, will curate the 2017 Koestler Exhibition at Southbank Centre in London. The show will be very different this year as we already know the exhibition theme 'Inside' - and *you* can get involved at the planning stages. Antony wants to invite Associates to communicate with him on initial thoughts and works in progress.

Please send your replies to 'FREEPOST KOESTLER TRUST' and we'll help you join the conversation.



'Angel of the North (Gateshead)', Antony Gormley 1998. Photograph by Jerry Hardman Jones

*Dear Associates*

*The artist's pack re-iterates my desire for the exhibition to be of work that speaks truthfully of prisoners' experience.*

*My ambition for the exhibition is that it carries the voice of the insider to us outside. The importance of this is critical at a time when, due to cuts, more time is spent in cells or rooms - the show can tell us what this feels like.*

*I would like to hear from you!*

*What is the reaction to the theme? What kind of work are you making?*

*Please get in touch, however briefly, so I can respond and that we can work together to make this show meaningful and powerful.*

*Yours in hope and trust,*

*Antony Gormley*

## Artist's Pack – suggestions and background

The enclosed Artist's Pack introduces Antony's exhibition theme, 'Inside', and suggests starting points for responding to it.

Artwork not directly responding to the theme can be entered to the Koestler Awards as usual and will be judged by the individual category judges in the usual way.

2017 Awards entry forms will be available from January. Associates will be mailed their own copies. They are also available at [koestlertrust.org.uk](http://koestlertrust.org.uk), and from art departments and libraries within establishments.

**'inside'**

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## Highlights of 2016...

### 2016 Awards

We received over 6,500 entries in 2016. Every entrant has been posted a certificate and 94% have been sent feedback on their work. The most popular artforms were Painting (913), Poem (861) and Drawing (630). The smallest categories were Beauty (8), Fashion (8) and Radio Play (9). We've started returning all the work to entrants – please bear with us while we complete this mammoth task!



*The Closure of Holloway*, HM Prison & Young Offenders Institute Holloway, Shearman Bowen Platinum Award for Painting

### Getting your artwork out there

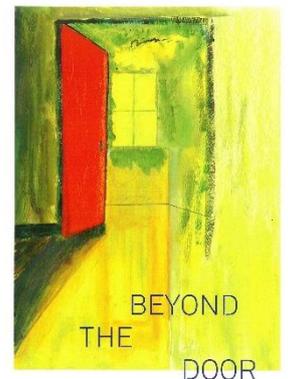
254 entries to the 2016 Awards were selected by poet Benjamin Zephaniah for 'We Are All Human,' our UK exhibition at the Southbank Centre in London. The show attracted over 20,000 visitors and got press attention including the *METRO*, *Big Issue*, *Evening Standard* and ITV News.



From August to September around 40 entries made from paper were included in 'Paperwork', a small Koestler exhibition at the Supreme Court in London.

A selection of 2016 entries from Scotland were displayed at the Robertson Trust's headquarters in Glasgow, with a launch for exhibited artists' families in November. We hope to hold an exhibition of 2017 entries from Scotland at Glasgow's Tramway in the autumn.

Selected work from the West Midlands will be exhibited at mac birmingham from 13 Jan – 26 Mar 2017. The show, 'Beyond the Door', is free – please encourage friends and family in the region to go and have a look.



### Selling your artwork

We've sold more artwork than ever before - at our pop-up shops and our base outside Wormwood Scrubs prison in London. We've launched a new online shop on our website, selling cards, a small selection of entries, and Koestler Friends membership. [www.koestlertrust.org.uk/shop/](http://www.koestlertrust.org.uk/shop/)



### Hosting the 2016 UK exhibition

8 ex-prisoners were employed to work at our UK exhibition at Southbank Centre from September to November 2016. The hosts did a fantastic job representing the work to visitors. We plan to run the same programme again in London in 2017. Details will be available in July/ August – watch this space!

