

Koestler Associates Update - Winter 2018

Inside, curated by Antony Gormley

Thank you to everyone who helped make *Inside* our most-attended show ever! Over 30,000 people visited, and it was featured by Jon Snow on the C4 News. We also ran a London Underground poster campaign for the first time. Antony selected around 160 pieces for the show, which included audio, film and written pieces among the 2D and 3D works. All the works were selected to respond to his exhibition theme, 'Inside,' and the show aimed to give a feel for what life is currently like in UK prisons.



Antony Gormley with the work, *Skull Chair* in the exhibition *Inside*

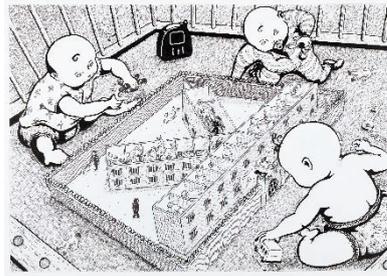
In 2018 we plan to work with families of prisoners – watch this space! (There is no exhibition theme to bear in mind this year).

Winners of the Audience Choice Awards – Many Congrats!



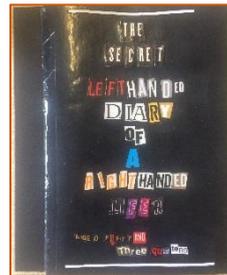
Platinum Award
Cornflower Blue

HM Prison Leyhill
Needlecraft



Gold Award
Play Time

Camden and Islington Probation
Service
Drawing



Silver Award

*The Secret Left-Handed
Diary of a Right-Handed
Lifer*

HM Prison North Sea Camp
Non-Fiction, Blog, Essay,
Article and Review



Bronze Award

Don't Bring Harry

HM Prison Wayland
Painting



Narrative, The Koestler Scotland Exhibition curated by Jenni Fagan

We returned to Tramway last year for the Koestler Scotland exhibition, which was curated by the acclaimed author and poet, Jenni Fagan. The exhibition received an estimated 1400 visitors during its 6-week run and featured around 180 works, including visual works, writing and music. We held a number of events as part of the exhibition programme – a Family Day, Voices from Prison in collaboration with Vox Liminis, a Mindfulness Tour delivered by Martin Stepek and we invited the Garthamlock Community Group, through Citizens Theatre, to perform a short piece at the opening of the exhibition. We also collaborated with STIR magazine who produced a wonderful little anthology called, '*Language from the Heart.*' This featured poems and artworks from Scotland and was available within the exhibition space for people to take home with them.

Top left: Display of artwork with music listening station
Bottom left: Poetry wall with artwork

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Koestler Voices

Last year we launched, Koestler Voices vol. 1, an anthology that presents some of the best poetry from the 2016 and 2017 Koestler Awards, with a foreword by poet Benjamin Zephaniah. The anthology was sold during the *Inside* exhibition at the Southbank Centre and is also currently available to buy on the Koestler Trust website. We also gave a free copy to every prison library in the UK. The anthology has been very successful with over 500 sold so far.

Koestler Voices:
New Poetry
From Prisons

Vol.1

The Koestler East of England Exhibition at Firstsite, curated in association with Young Art Kommunity

We are heading to the East of England for the first time! The exhibition is being curated in association with Young Art Kommunity, a young people-led advisory group who are actively involved in programming events and activities at Firstsite. The exhibition opens to the public on March 17 and will be on until June 2018, and will feature a small selection of works from the East of the England.



Firstsite, Colchester

Associates Day

The Koestler Trust was delighted to be joined by 60 attendees at our first ever Associates Day. Our Associates, and their friends and family joined us for tea, cake, and a special tour around our 2017 UK exhibition *Inside*. It was very special for us to welcome so many of our long-term entrants, some of whom had not had the chance to visit one of our exhibitions before, and we got some great feedback from them on the day. We hope to run the event again in 2018.

Koestler Awards 2018



Favela, HM Prison Wakefield, Commended Award for Digital Art

The 2018 Koestler Awards are now open for entry. This year's themed category is 'Connections'. Have a go at producing a poem, drawing, painting, song or any other Koestler artform using the word 'Connections' as a theme. (You can of course enter the other categories using any theme.)

Theatre is a focus this year, as we have partnered with Synergy Theatre Project to ensure all Stage Play entries will be read and judged by a team of theatre professionals and ex-prisoners. The Koestler Awards submission deadline is Friday 13 April 2018, and winners will be announced at the end of August. Entry forms and guidance notes are included.

Get involved: We are planning the next few years of the Koestler exhibition programme. Is there someone you can suggest that you think would be great at curating our UK national exhibition at the Southbank Centre, or do you have a particular group in mind that we could invite? Please write to us, we'd love to hear from you!

The Koestler Awards cycle – the next stages

We are currently in the midst of returning visual works from the 2017 Awards to establishments, and will be working on home moves shortly after. This process takes a while due to the large amount of entries we receive. We hope to return everyone's work by the end of March, in time to receive all the 2018 entries!