

## Autumn Koestler Associates Newsletter 2018

At the Koestler Arts Centre we have had an incredibly busy couple of months! Since we last wrote to you all our judging has been completed; we have had over 70 feedback volunteers helping to give feedback for as many of your entries as possible; we have decorated the house with all your wonderful artwork as part of Open House London 2018; and our national exhibition has been curated, installed and opened to the public!

We are now working on getting all 2018 certificates printed; organising the thousands of hand-written feedback sheets to return to our entrants; hosting events at our national exhibition; selling entries in our pop-up shop; and looking towards our regional exhibitions!



### **The Exhibition: *I'm Still Here***

**Royal Festival Hall, 19 September – 4 November**

Our annual national exhibition is now up and in full swing! This year it showcases 220 entries, across a huge range of media including: matchstick models, poems, paintings, soap carvings, hip-hop/grime/rap, animation and mixed media (plus many more!). It's an incredibly colourful and exciting show!

#### **Our Curators**

**Barbara, Cynthia, Saffron, Jevontae, Julie, Leah, Anne, Janet and Becky**

This year we have worked with 9 curators, across 5 family groups, who have all supported a loved one in prison. The groups are made up of the core supporter(s) of current and recently released prisoners and include a close friend, 3 mothers, a wife, sisters, nieces and a nephew.

Each group was asked to select 1 object as inspiration for their selection. The objects symbolise aspects of the families' own experiences of supporting a loved one in prison. With their object in mind, each family spent a day at the Koestler Arts Centre selecting around 40 artworks from the 7,235 entries submitted to the 2018 Koestler Awards. Their selections explore how each family managed, or are managing, to keep their relationship strong across prison walls.

'The most important message from me personally is that regardless of the crime, we're all (as a family) doing the time.' (Saffron, curator)

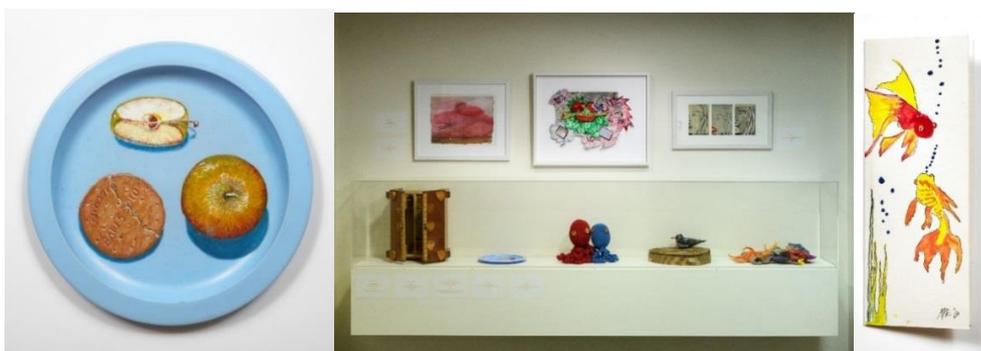
**Cynthia, Saffron and Jevontae's selection** was inspired by a speech written by their loved one to be read as a surprise at Cynthia (his mum's) wedding.



**Barbara's selection** was inspired by a telephone – the lifeline between her and her son.



**Becky's selection** was inspired by the 'hundreds, if not thousands' of handmade greeting cards her partner sent during his time inside.



**Janet's selection** was inspired by a cherished book of quotations, which gave inspiration for daily emails between her and her son.



**Julie, Leah and Anne's selection** was inspired by a paintbrush, signifying the role the arts have in holding and bringing their family together.



The public opening was a huge success! Hundreds of visitors joined us for performances by Vox Liminis and speeches from the Lord Chancellor with Jeremy Wright MP Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.



# The 2018 Awards

## A Selection of Our Winning Entries

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part in our 2018 Koestler Awards – the standard of work has been incredibly high! The judges have had the tough job of choosing the winners for each of our 52 categories. Here is a selection of some of our winning entries:



*Team Building at Bronzefield*  
HM Prison Bronzefield  
Platinum Award for Painting



*Nebu Eye*  
HM Prison Nottingham  
Ed King Silver Award for Painting (Exhibited Artwork)



*The Penguin*  
The Bracton Centre  
Silver Award for Painting for Watercolour & Gouache



*Family Tree*  
HM Prison Shotts  
Patrick Holmes Platinum Award for Painting (Exhibited Artwork)



*Cherry Blossom*  
River House Medium Secure Unit  
Bethlem Royal Hospital  
Ariane Banks Platinum Award for Portrait

*Study of a Male Face*  
HM Prison Whatton  
Brent Silver Award for Portrait





*Looking Out*  
HM Prison Hewell  
Platinum Award for Drawing



*My Family Adventure Dreamland*  
Bracton Centre  
Platinum Award for Mixed Media



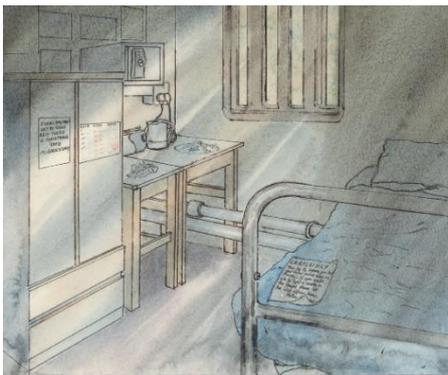
*One Day*  
HM Prison Isle of Wight (Albany)  
Platinum Award for Craft



*Taj Mahal*  
HM Prison Dovegate  
Platinum Award for Ceramics



*Air Punch*  
HM Prison Maidstone  
Platinum Award for Sculpture



*Bad News*  
Exeter Probation Service  
Clara Alman Platinum Award  
for Watercolour & Gouache  
(Exhibited Artwork)



*Thoughts on a Sunny Day*  
HM Prison Edinburgh  
David Astor Gold Award for Handmade Book (Exhibited Artwork)