

KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

*Hello from all of us at Koestler Arts!
We are all living in strange times with the current pandemic and we know it's very frustrating not being able to access your usual activities. So Koestler Arts are here each week during lockdown to suggest creative ideas - we hope this helps a bit. All you need is paper and pencil - though if you have further materials please use them.*

*You might want to keep whatever you make or share it with someone. You could also enter it for the Koestler Awards 2020 - **the deadline has been extended until Tuesday 07 July**. If you can, please send your work sooner to give us more time to process your entries. We've increased the maximum number of entries per person to 10 this year. Entry forms should be in this pack. If not, or if you need more, please ask Education. You need an entry form for any artwork you send to Koestler. As well as the usual feedback and awards for entrants, we hope to create a small feature of works that mark how we got through this difficult time.*

With best wishes from the Koestler Team.

Idea #17: The Poet as Witness



This challenge has been set by Joelle Taylor, a poet and Koestler judge, via The Poetry Society:

One of the roles of the poet is as witness; observing and documenting the world. But how can we witness something we cannot reach? I was recently asked by BBC Radio 3 to write a poem looking at 'isolation' during these perplexing times. All writing happens in context, and so I wrote 'A Very English Apocalypse' in response not only to Covid-19 but the tumultuous political discourse of the years preceding the virus, the rise in nationalism, the Windrush scandal, and Brexit.

Have a read of the poem on the other side of this sheet. Look at the line 'the windows are laboratory slides, darling'. What does it mean?

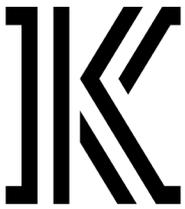
Look out the window or imagine looking out of a window. What do you see? A tower block? A field? Water? Your task is to create a life, a culture, from the laboratory slide of the window.

Ask yourself these questions when creating the character or new life for your poem. The more questions you can think of the more bones to the body of your poem:

- Who lives in the house/ building/ land opposite?
- Are they alone?
- How does their body fit the room they are in?
- What is their secret?
- What job do they usually do?
- How do they fit into the current political climate?
- Do they communicate with you? How?
- What would the shadow puppetry of night-time windows be?

Confine your poems to 9 lines so that form follows the context in some way and adds another layer of meaning.

This was set as a poetry task but you can respond to Koestler's themed category, 'window', in any medium!



A Very English Apocalypse - Joelle Taylor

(i) coronavisa

Having repelled foreign bodies
foreign bodies invaded
our bodies, now foreign
slipping between border rails
they drifted over high walls
seeped beneath the carpets of Parliament
teaching us anatomy of loss
the universal theory of alone
the mathematics of survival
the weight of air
how visa it all is.

We should have checked our temperatures years ago.

(ii) a very English apocalypse

This fever-empire this other this better
all rogue all unjoin all apart this width
we have invaded ourselves, and queued to do it

what is the distance between two people

walking away from one another?

Hacking up headlines
a cough of white crows circle the city's bloodstream

& two friends walk too close together
their kisses unexploded

The birds teach us new songs, and we follow
reading closely typed manuscripts in crow, and we follow

oh look/ & now
there are dolphins in Venice canals, goats in Llandudno gardens
& lions reporting the news in Moscow.

in Britain/ the bulldog has returned
but each of our doors are closed

hear him now
his midnight howl,
the sound of wrong
an ambulance bawling.

(iii) the empire of us

& all of our beds, desert islands
the empires of us; I lie there
my body, foreign
no longer speaking the same language;
one of my hands does not understand the other
& my blood ticks

& then there is you, my darling
We are two dogs tethered, biting at our own umbilical, &
there are 7 cracks across the living room ceiling, darling
the windows are laboratory slides, darling
darling
teach me the shape of your happy
teach me Galway, 1974
teach me this love wassailed between tower blocks
teach me an earthquake of handclap teach me
to dance on the edge of

everything

my darling

it took this to show us the air



Image:
Bird of Warren Hill
HM Prison Warren Hill
Needlecraft, 2019

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KOESTLER AWARDS ENTRY FORM

Send a completed form with each entry.
Maximum 10 entries per entrant (previously 5).
2020 closing date: Tuesday 7 July.

ENTRY

Is this the first time you have entered the Awards?

Yes No

Establishment: (Name of prison, hospital or probation service)

Title of entry:

Artform: (Choose one artform from the 2020 Awards Guidance)

Visual description of entry:

Using your name: (Authorised staff must agree)

If my entry is exhibited or published, I give permission for my first name to appear alongside it. Yes No

Sales of visual artwork: (Tick one choice only)

My entry is for sale. The lowest amount I'd be willing to receive is £ (maximum £250)

My entry is not for sale.

I donate my entry to Koestler Arts.

ENTRANT (For groups – see the next page)

First name of entrant:

Last name of entrant:

Date of birth:

Prison or hospital number:

Signature of entrant:

For Koestler Arts staff			
K. No.	Artform	Supp. docs	No. of items

AUTHORISED MEMBER OF STAFF

Full name:

Job title:

Department:

Telephone number:

Email:

Probation area: (For CRCs only)

Can the entrant's first name be made public?

Yes No

Can the entry be sold? (Visual arts only)

Yes No

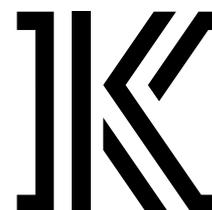
Who should any cheques be payable to?

I confirm that this entry is the entrant's own original work.

Signature of staff: (Entries can't be accepted without staff sign-off)

Date:

Unlock the talent inside



Turn for page 2 →

GROUP ENTRIES ONLY — TELL US ABOUT YOUR GROUP

Name of group:

Number of people excl. staff:



First name: Last name: Date of birth: Prison or hospital number: Release date if in 2020, and home address:

Continue on a separate sheet if needed. If there are over 4 people in the group cheques will not be split.

ENTRANTS WHO ARE IN THE COMMUNITY OR DUE FOR RELEASE IN 2020

Please notify us if these details change

Date of release:

Home address:

Postcode:

Telephone number:

Email:

ASSOCIATES PROGRAMME

Associates benefit from more contact with us, through the Koestler Associates newsletter.

I would like to be part of the Associates Programme.

REMINDERS

Entrants agree to the terms and conditions in the 2020 Awards Guidance. These are available on our website, from your establishment, or you can write to us to request a copy.

- ✓ Information submitted on this form will be held on the Koestler Arts secure and confidential database.
- ✓ All work is handled with care, but Koestler Arts and its agents accept no liability for loss or damage to entries.
- ✓ Pack your work carefully. It must be under 15kg.
- ✓ Koestler Arts and its agents can exhibit, publish, and reproduce artworks in reasonable ways in print, online, film, audio etc to promote the charity's work. Artists retain copyright of their work.
- ✓ Koestler Arts can try to sell visual entries, if we have both your permission and that of the 'authorised member of staff.' Most work sells for under £100.
- ✓ Non-visual entries will not be returned to you. These include writing, performance, audio, film and animation entries – so please make copies.

MONITORING FOR DIVERSITY OPTIONAL

This anonymised data will not be used to judge your work. It is for research and monitoring purposes only.

Ethnic group

Asian/Asian British:
Bangladeshi
Asian/Asian British: Indian
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani
Any other Asian background
Black/Black British: African
Black/Black British: Caribbean
Any other Black background
Chinese
Irish Traveller/Gypsy

Mixed White & Asian
Mixed White & Black African
Mixed White & Black Caribbean
Any other Mixed background
White British
Any other White background
Any other group:

Formal education completed

No formal qualifications
Basic skills level 1
Basic skills level 2
GCSEs or A Levels
Vocational training
Degree or post-graduate

I am:

Ex-armed forces personnel
A care leaver

Gender

Male
Female
Transgender
Non-binary

Age

Under 16
16-17
18
19-24
25-29
30-59
60 and over

Religion

Atheist
Buddhist
Christian
Hindu
Jewish
Muslim
Sikh
Other

Registered disabled?

Yes No