

# KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

## *Season's Greetings from Koestler Arts!*

*Koestler Arts + Art Aid sheets suggest creative tasks that can be done in-cell. For most all you need is paper and a pencil - though if you have further materials please use them.*

### **You can enter the 2021 Koestler Awards from 1 January!**

*Please complete a Koestler entry form for every entry and see our guidance notes for full terms and conditions. Entry forms should be attached to this sheet. If not, or if you need more, please ask education, the library, or contact us at FREEPOST KOESTLER ARTS (no stamp or address needed). The deadline for submissions is Thursday 22 April 2021.*

*Each month Koestler Arts are commissioning an artist/writer who has directly engaged with Koestler to set a creative task. Our entrants have told us that they would like to hear more from other people with experience of being creative in the criminal justice system. We hope that Art Aid will become a platform to share personal stories and sources of inspiration. New Art Aid sheets will be available from the first Monday of each month.*

## **December 2020**

*This task is set by Koestler Mentee, Award Winner and Exhibited Artist, Steve.*

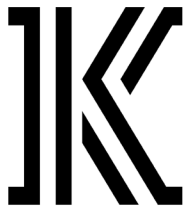
### **My Story**

Anything to combat the boredom. That was what compelled me to pick up a biro and start doodling pictures of Hellboy from a prison library graphic novel. Then it dawned on me that joining the art class would get me out of a couple of shifts pot-washing in the kitchens. Once in the art class I heard about Koestler Arts. There was a competition, prizes! Money! I entered. I won a small prize and was surprised to find I was far happier with the certificate I received than with the money. That was when I realised that my dodge to fight boredom, avoid kitchen duties and maybe win some extra money to spend on canteen, wasn't a dodge after all - it had become a genuine passion.

Since leaving prison that passion has continued to grow. I was lucky enough to get a place on the Koestler Arts Mentoring Scheme and enjoyed numerous visits to art galleries with a fascinating and knowledgeable mentor who helped me define what I wanted to achieve, and encouraged me to join a local art group. With this group I have exhibited a few of my paintings, even selling a couple.

So, my advice is: give it a go. If you have something to write with, and something to write on, just start making marks, a doodle, a pattern, a cartoon, draw your mug, your hand, your cell mate (with their permission) the view you wish you had from your cell window, anything. Who knows where it might lead?

**Image:**  
*Inside Man*  
HM Prison Bure  
A. P. Chapman Bronze  
Award for Portrait, 2017



## Card Making

Full disclosure: I'm an atheist who loves Christmas. Go figure. But whatever you choose to celebrate, I hope you'll join me in this card-making task.

**Step one** - if you're feeling a bit 'bah-humbug' - will be to find an angle to join in from. So if you don't want to send a Christmas, Xmas, or Winterval card, how about just letting somebody know you appreciate them? Or if you're determined not to spread any Xmas cheer, how about making a card for yourself? Maybe an entry for the Greetings Card category of next year's Koestler Awards?

**Step two:** think about what's available to you, materials can be hard to come by inside, but as long as you have paper you can do something. Card would be perfect, but we don't need perfect, possible will do fine. Cut it (or tear it along a straight edge) to twice the size you want your finished card to be, then fold it in half so it will stand up.

**Step three:** find something to make marks with. A biro or pencil will suffice. Felt-tips or paint? Even better. But you could also cover the page with scribbled pencil and then use an eraser to 'paint' through to white again. Bits of packaging, plastic bottle lids and the like can be used to print with, and plastic cutlery is great for applying paint. Try a few things out, see what effects you can achieve.

**Step four:** what you are going to put on your card? A traditional Xmas image? A poem? A cartoon about prison food? An abstract pattern? Or any number of other things that I can't think of but you can...

**Step five:** think about contrasts. Large with small, light with dark, warm colours with cold. Perch your tiny robin on the toe of great big Wellington boot, give the figure in your snow-scene a red scarf, if your pattern is in orange, put it on a blue background, make your shadows darker and your highlights as light as they can be. Be bold, and remember you can always try it out on a piece of scrap paper first!

Xmas inside is never easy. Getting creative can help get you through it, and receiving something from you might help someone else get through it too.

However you do or don't choose to celebrate it, I wish you all a happy 25th of December.

**Images (left to right):** *Robin*, HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Parc, Painting, 2019

*Card II*, Isle of Man Prison, Bronze Award for Handmade Greetings Card, 2018

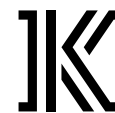
*Seasons Greetings*, HM Young Offender Institution Swinfen Hall, Commended Award for Handmade Greetings Card, 2019

*Sea and Sky*, HM Prison Thorn Cross, Platinum Award for Handmade Greetings Card, 2020

*Greetings Card*, HM Young Offender Institution Swinfen Hall, First-Time Entrant Award for Handmade Greetings Card, 2019



# KOESTLER AWARDS ENTRY FORM



Send a completed form with each entry.  
Maximum 5 entries per entrant.  
2021 closing date: Thursday 22 April.

## ENTRANT (For groups – see the next page)

First name of entrant:

Last name of entrant:

Date of birth: (May be needed for processing payments)

## ENTRY

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

Title of entry:

Artform: (Choose one artform from the 2021 Awards Guidance)

Visual description of entry:

## AUTHORISED MEMBER OF STAFF

Full name:

Job title:

Department:

Telephone number:

Email:

Office postcode: (Probation only)

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

Prison or hospital number:

Signature of entrant:

Is this the first time you have entered the Awards?  
Yes    No

**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.

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, and approve it for entry into the Koestler Awards.

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 2021, 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 2021

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 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.
- ✓ We do not return written entries or work on CDs/ DVDs. 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  
Other

#### 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