

KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

Hello 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 now!

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. New Art Aid sheets will be available from the first and third Monday of each month as we approach the Awards deadline.

February 2021, Issue 1

This task is set by Koestler Award winner, exhibited artist and current mentee, Sean.

My Story

Having served a number of prison sentences, I have been able to learn the rudiments of drawing, painting and even some sculpture techniques. Before exploring visual arts in my early thirties (I am now in my mid-fifties) my main artistic expression was poetry.

As I became more proficient; visual and non-visual art became a safe way of looking at issues I felt necessary to confront. These could be personal feelings, thoughts, happenings in society, or just how I saw the world. Since 2010 I have been entering the Koestler Awards and have been fortunate to have won some awards and even more so to have been part of some amazing Koestler exhibitions. The effect has been to encourage my artistic endeavours and to have my voice heard, even when incarcerated.

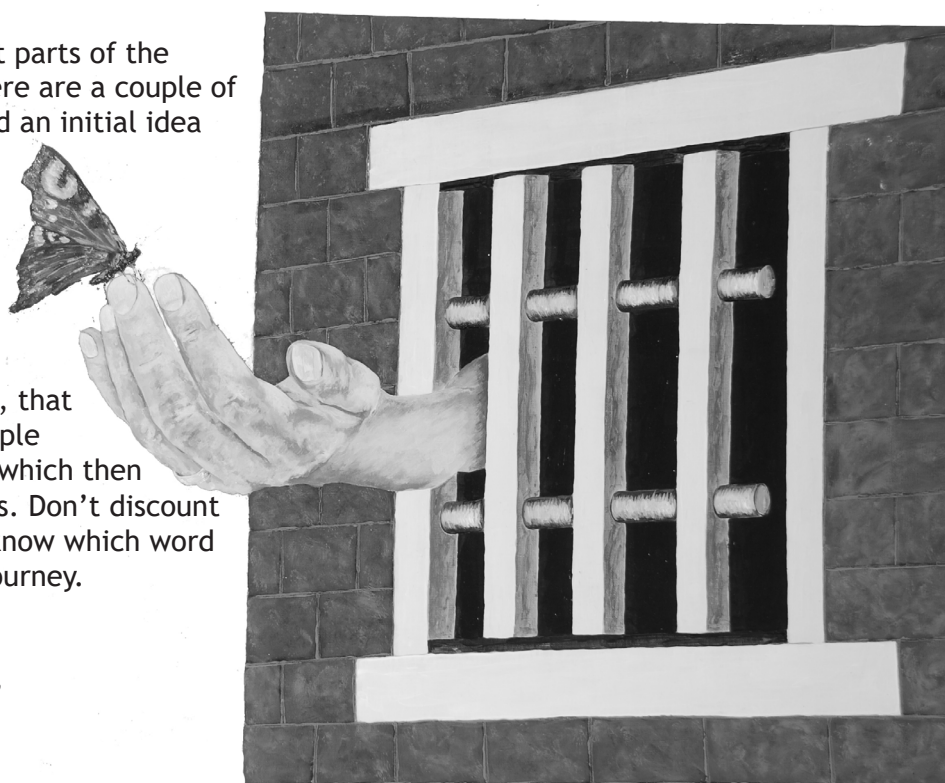
I have found that one of the most difficult parts of the artistic process is formulating an idea. Here are a couple of activities that can spark an idea, or mould an initial idea into greater clarity.

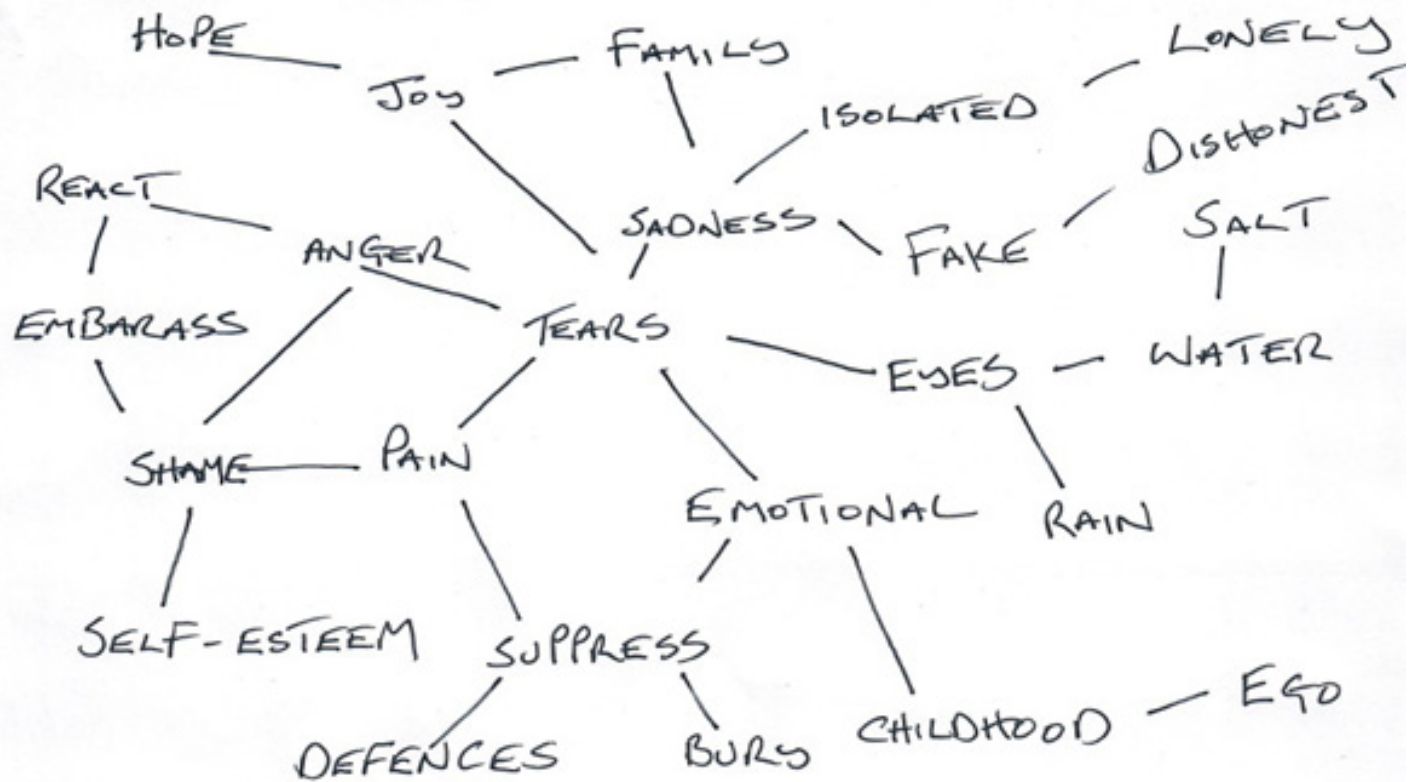
Brainburst

The first is a 'Brainburst', which is also sometimes referred to as a 'Spidergram'.

It begins with a word, phrase or sentence, that the artist intends to explore. In the example overleaf the catalyst is the word 'tears', which then connects with related thoughts or feelings. Don't discount anything that comes to mind, you never know which word will be the spark that begins a creative journey.

Image: *Papillon Landing*, HM Prison Dovegate, Silver Award for Painting, 2017





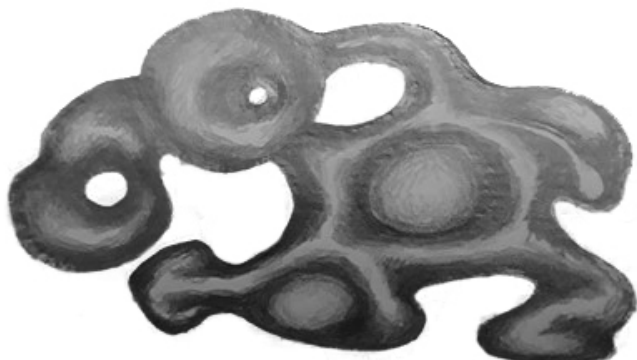
A similar 'brainburst' helped to create the poem 'Rain', which later became a sculpture which I entered into the 2020 Koestler Awards. The first verse was:

Electric chair stifles rain.
 Big boy, so get lost rain.
 Laugh at the devil rain.
 Passenger, ignorant of rain.

Taking a Pencil for a Walk

The second exercise is what I refer to as 'taking a pencil for a walk' though a pen can also suffice. It involves using a drawing implement to build up a doodle by way of expanding shapes and creating forms, either figurative or abstract, through shading and line drawing.

It could be a follow on exercise from the first, as words or lines of verse have been a starting point for many of my previous art pieces, I connect images naturally with script. However, the 'walking pencil' can also be a starting point. Personally I like to listen to music that reflects my mood whilst 'walking my pencil'. In this example I was listening to some 'old skool' house music, which has an influence in the evolving organic figure. This doodle then became a maquette/sculpture, which I hope to one day make into a larger work.



Art helped me through many years of incarceration and in these difficult times it may just bring you some solace. The Koestler Awards can give focus for any artistic endeavour, there are 52 categories, I still enter even though I am now on licence and in society.

Best of luck, Sean

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