

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. We've increased the maximum number of entries per person to 10 this year. 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 has been extended to Tuesday 1 June 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.

May 2021, Issue 1

These tasks were set by Koestler Award winner, exhibited artist and former mentee, Mark, whose story was shared in Art Aid, March 2021, Issue 2.

Introduction

From my own experience I know how easy it is when you're in prison to focus on what you don't have but it's vitally important to remember what you still do have. The power to think, to imagine, to remember and to create. Having something to do is probably more important on the inside than it is on the outside as is a sense of challenge and achievement and so writing and art-making can make a massive difference to how you deal with being in prison. It certainly made a huge difference to me. Overleaf are a writing and a drawing task that require you to travel in your imagination. Give them a try. You might surprise yourself by what you can achieve.

You may even consider entering your creations to Koestler's Drawing or Stage Play Awards categories!

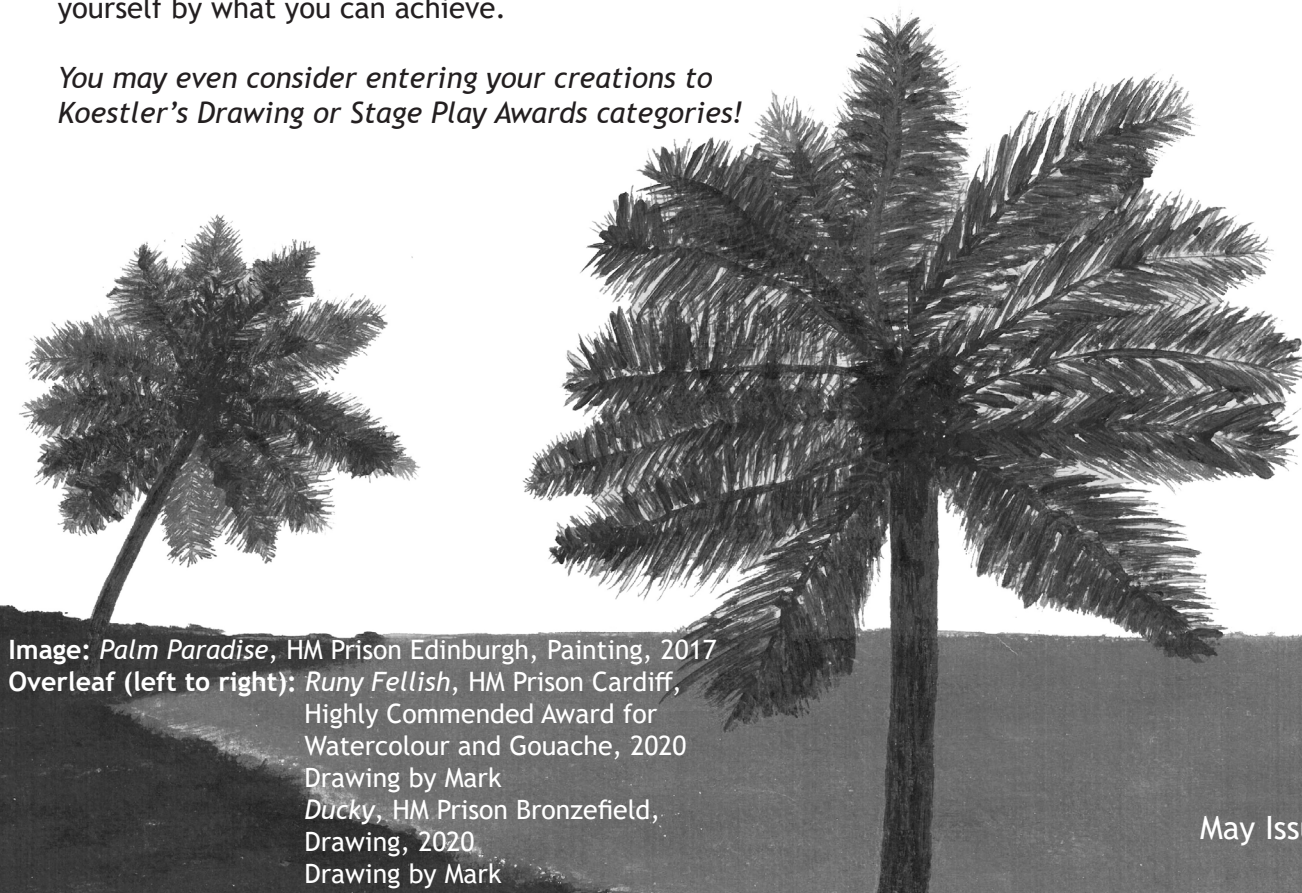
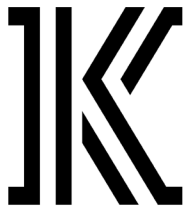


Image: *Palm Paradise*, HM Prison Edinburgh, Painting, 2017

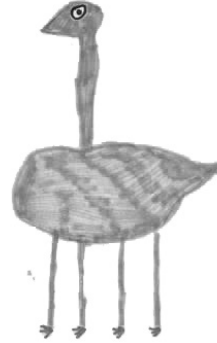
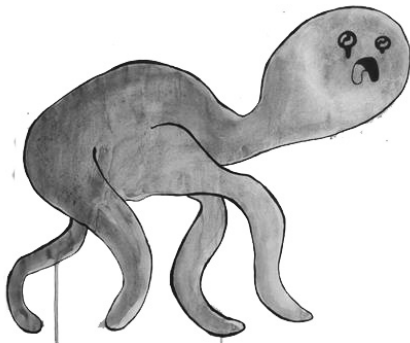
Overleaf (left to right): *Runy Fellish*, HM Prison Cardiff, Highly Commended Award for Watercolour and Gouache, 2020
Drawing by Mark
Ducky, HM Prison Bronzefield, Drawing, 2020
Drawing by Mark



Drawing Task

You've probably seen the type of old movie that I'm thinking about. The crew of some kind of ship or plane find themselves stranded on a deserted island. They start building huts and looking for food and water but sooner or later it happens - they run in to a vicious fifteen foot tall bird or a huge crab appears over a sand dune. Sometimes the creature is a strange cross between two or three animals. For this task imagine you've been commissioned to create a creature like this for a film company.

Work from your imagination but you can use any pictures of animals that you might have as a reference. So you might see a picture of a dog and a picture of a bird and decide to combine the two. A bird with a ferocious dog's head or a dog with wings and a beak? Maybe you'll decide to give your creature a human body but instead of legs you make it part snake. The possibilities are endless so try not to limit yourself. Begin by doing a few rough sketches. You might even end up combining elements of these sketches to arrive at a different creature entirely. Use any medium you like; colour or black and white. If you want to develop it further, add a background to give your creature a habitat.



Writing Task

You don't need to be a Shakespeare to write a play. For this task you are the playwright! Start by trying to imagine a conversation between two or three characters. Just by putting words into their mouths you are basically creating a play. It's all about using two things; your imagination and your sense of humour. The basic plot is this... A tiny, imaginary country has decided that they need a King or a Queen so they are interviewing candidates.

As this isn't a situation that could occur in real life there are no rules here. Don't be restricted by thinking that this play has to be serious or even sensible. You are aiming for humour. Silliness is fine here. Weirdness is recommended.

Begin by setting the scene so that the reader can create a mental picture. Describe the interview room. Is it a modern office or a room in a castle or the living room of a small cottage with tea being served from a china teapot? Then describe those doing the interviews, what is their job, what do they look like, how do they speak? Remember, you are simply creating a picture in the mind of the reader. You are setting the scene.

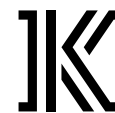
Next you need to think of what questions might be asked. To do this consider the kind of things that might be asked at a real interview and add a twist of strangeness. For example:

Prime Minister - *Could you tell us all what experience you have of being a King?*

Interviewee - *Err, well none actually but I'm quite good at telling people what to do though.*

Let your imagination run with this. As your day goes on you might hear snippets of conversation that might give you an idea or you might see something on TV that you can adapt. To help the reader picture the scene occasionally add stage directions describing the characters movements and reactions between the dialogue. Be as silly and as creative as you can and enjoy creating your imaginary world!

KOESTLER AWARDS ENTRY FORM



Send a completed form with each entry.
Maximum 10 entries per entrant (previously 5).
2021 closing date: Tuesday 1 June.

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:

| | | | | |
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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