

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.

Calling all final 2022 Koestler entries - deadline: Thursday 7 April 2022.

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).

For each Art Aid sheet 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 Monday of every month.

April 2022

This task was set by Koester Award-winning artist and mentee, Jordan.

My Story

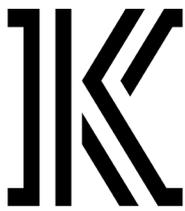
Just before I was sentenced I had graduated with a fine art degree. I thought my creativity would have to be put to one side while I was inside. However, I discovered the Koestler Awards which motivated me to experiment and explore my creative side with restricted and limited resources over the 3 and half years I was away.

I used materials such as prison soap, oranges, found items around the prison estate, toothpaste - anything I could get my hands on! I was a sculptor at uni and mainly worked with clay. I trained as a hairdresser in prison and discovered a new creative passion and skill that I've continued with on the outside.

Prison showed me how free art is, how there really are no rules or limitations or boundaries with art. Whilst making and creating you are never really locked away. I'm a big believer in there being a strong link between perspective and experience. The way you see the world is the way you experience it - the way you see your art is the way you experience it. If you believe you can create something and are positive and open about trying something new then you will experience the process of making it and showing others your art, in an enjoyable and positive way.



Image: Formed, Deformed, Reformed
HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Drake Hall
Under 25s Special Award for Sculpture, 2019



My Task



As it is Koestler's 60th Birthday this year my task is themed around celebration. We all need more opportunity to celebrate. Not just the big things but the little everyday things.

My task is to create miniature celebration drawings using a blind drawing technique.



Step 1:

You will need a small piece of paper and something to make marks with - pen / pencil / charcoal / coloured pencils / paint.

Step 2:

Close your eyes or cover your eyes with something.

Step 3:

Think of the word 'celebration' and visualise what comes to mind whether that's a physical thing - birthday cake, a bottle of wine, balloons, a group of people dancing etc. - or a more abstract emotion or feeling.

Step 4:

With your eyes still closed or covered draw the image you are thinking of, don't be tempted to look until you are finished. Be brave and add detail!

Step 5:

Take a look at what you've drawn! It will probably look a bit all over the place and inaccurate but that's what makes it abstract and interesting!



Hopefully this task will get you to experiment and try something new and result in an image that is different from what you would normally create! When I am feeling uninspired this task can help me create forms and shapes that resemble something in a fun and abstract way that isn't obvious or copying. You can add to the finished blind drawing and use it as a starting point for something if you wish or you may like the results of the blind drawing alone!

Drawings by Koestler Arts Staff in response to Jordan's task.