



Impact Statement
2018–2019





Koestler Arts

Koestler Arts is the UK's leading prison arts charity. Since 1962 the Koestler Awards have played a unique role in motivating prisoners, secure hospital patients and immigration detainees to take part in the arts.

At its heart our aim is simple and powerful; to reward achievement, build self-confidence and broaden the horizons of some of the most marginalised people in the UK. Our work harnesses the transformative power of the arts to help individuals learn new skills and gain the confidence to live creative, positive and productive lives.

2018–2019 has been a key year for Koestler Arts, and despite the challenges faced across the secure estate we were delighted last year to have seen an increase in entrants, entries and establishments represented.

We welcomed 7,317 entries from 3,566 entrants across 52 different art forms and 277 establishments. 2,338 Koestler Awards were granted by over 100 judges, providing individuals in secure settings with motivation and encouragement for their artistic efforts.

We are thrilled to be returning for the twelfth year to showcase this uniquely powerful work at our annual UK exhibition in partnership with Southbank Centre.

Through our exhibitions, art sales and events we continually seek to increase public awareness of the contribution that these individuals can make to the arts and their communities. The role of the arts in supporting the rehabilitative journeys of prisoners has been increasingly highlighted. With over 55 years' experience in this field we are confident we have the tools and experience to continue successfully facing the challenging climate of prisons today.

Finally, thank you to all who have supported Koestler Arts this year. Without your valuable contributions, we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

Dame Anne Owers, Chair of Trustees
Sally Taylor, Chief Executive

The Koestler Awards have been the most important thing for me over these last few years. Each year I look forward to entering my latest work and getting comments from judges in the art world. It's given me a belief in myself.

— 2018 Koestler Award entrant and Postcard from Prison Artist

Our entrants to the Awards...



71%
felt helped to keep
free from crime



76%
improved
relationships with
officers and staff



69%
improved
relationships with
friends and family



69%
improved
achievement
in education



93%
improved
self-confidence



90%
improved
achievement
in the arts

Awards numbers

3,566

award entrants.

7,317

award entries in 52 arts categories.

2,338

awards won.

98

judges including Jeremy Deller, Emma Bridgewater, Reggie Yates, Shaun Attwood, Tim Dooley, Art on the Underground, Hot Chip, Alan Kane and many more.

Awards steps

- Jan — April
Artwork received at Koestler Arts Centre
- Jan — Jun
Regional Exhibitions
- Apr — Jul
Entries logged onto our database
- Jun — Jul
Judging
- Jul — Aug
Feedback writing
- End of Aug
Awards announced
- Oct
Certificates and prize money
- Sept — Nov
UK exhibition
- Dec
Artwork sales money sent to artist
- Jan — Mar
Artwork returned to artists

£31,160

in prize money awarded to 912 Award entrants.

277

prisons, secure hospitals, children's homes, immigration removal centres.

95%

of entrants received written feedback. External encouragement is a vital stepping stone in building self-confidence and engaging with education. Through our Fast Feedback scheme for young people, 172 under 18's received feedback on 388 artworks.

Our Projects



Postcards from Prison

Our exhibition and fundraiser event hosted by Sotheby's featured original artworks on postcards by renowned British artists and artists in prisons across the country. A ticketed lottery helped us raise £12,500.

40 artworks by artists including Maggi Hambling, Cornelia Parker, Tracey Emin, and Anish Kapoor were on show with 120 postcards from 51 prisons.



Open House London (Sept 18)



Radio 4 Charity Appeal

We were proud to broadcast our first Radio 4 Charity Appeal in March 2019, raising over £18,000 to support our core work with young people.

Turner Prize-winning artist and Koestler judge Jeremy Deller told the story of John Costi. As an entrant and mentee, John received the affirmation and encouragement to change his life.



Voices from Prison

An evening of spoken word performances selected from the 2018 Koestler Awards.



100 Years On: An Art Trail by Women in Prison

The art trail shone a light on the challenges faced by women prisoners, with 92 artworks by over 50 women on display in 'corridors of power' across the UK.

Our Exhibitions

Across the year, we exhibited over 400 artworks by over 350 artists. 227,157 people attended one of our exhibitions across the UK, during the 398 days a Koestler exhibition was on somewhere.

UK Exhibition

20,000+ visitors saw *I'm Still Here*, curated by families supporting a loved one inside.

I rarely get noticed and feel as though I have gone unheard for a long time. Having my art recognised by the Koestler Awards has helped motivate me to better myself and hopefully inspire others to never give up.

2018 Entrant and Associate

Regional Exhibitions

- **Chip Night**, East of England Exhibition, First Site, Colchester
- **First Impressions**, Portraits from Prison, at three churches in Westminster.
- **We Made This**, South East of England Exhibition, Turner Contemporary, Margate.

Artwork Sales

When we sell original artwork from artists in custody, 50% of sales goes to the artist giving them income, confidence and affirmation of the value of the creativity, 25% of the sales is donated to Victim Support and 25% to Koestler Arts.

Our Outreach & Mentoring

We extend the impact of the Koestler Awards with prison visits, mentoring and employment programmes for ex-prisoners. We reach more individuals and offer hope and ambition to ex-prisoners.

815

Active Koestler Associates

A members scheme open to all Awards entrants, invited to participate in special projects.

31

Establishment Visits

Including 16 prisons holding women, 2 Secure Mental Health Units and 4 Young offender Institutions

30

Mentors

Since 2007 our Arts Mentoring has harnessed the help individuals leaving prison continue their rehabilitative journeys. With an arts mentor, mentees gain the skills and confidence to help them lead creative and positive lives after prison.

- 98% have not reoffended
- 70% report improved self-esteem
- 48% have gone into education or training
- 100% better manage mental health problems
- 100% are safely managing addictions
- 70% feel less isolated

6

Exhibition Hosts

Ex-prisoners recruited, trained and employed as:

- 86% of our Hosts are currently in employment
- 6 employed at the Southbank Centre following their Host roles.
- 92% of our previous ex-prisoner Exhibition Hosts have not reoffended.

5

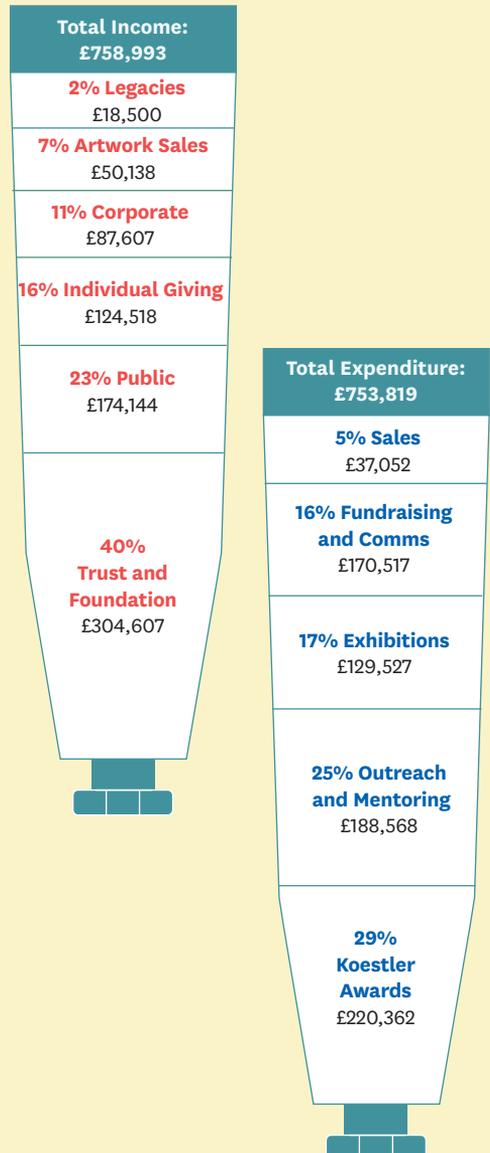
Family Days enabling the families of exhibited artists to celebrate their achievements by seeing their art in a exhibition.

2

Prisoners volunteering on day release helping us run the Koestler Awards and gaining valuable work experience.

Income & Expenditure 2018–19

Koestler Arts fundraises all year round to ensure we raise the £750,000 per year we need to run our activities. Thank you to all the Individuals, Trusts and Foundations, Public funders, and Corporate supporters for helping us motivate prisoners, secure patients and detainees across the country to continue developing their talents and benefitting from the transformative power of art.



Future Plans 2019–20

As well continuing our work to deliver our mission we are working on the following developments:

Exhibitions

- **2019 UK Exhibition** at Southbank Centre, curated by Jazz musician Soweto Kinch (Sutumn 2019)
- **House of St Barnabas** (Spring 2019)
- **Snape Maltings**, Suffolk (Aug 2019)
- **London Jass Festival at Wormwood Scrubs** (November 2019).

Future Research

Building on our existing programmes and activities, we will be exploring how our work can impact the longer-term outcomes for our beneficiaries, their families and the staff supporting them both within establishments and upon release.

As a result of working for Koestler I was able to get a job and have hope for the future. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity that it has given me as finally my life is going in the right direction and everyone from Koestler Arts is responsible for that; so, thank you, as it has meant everything to me!

— 2018 Exhibition Host

Koestler Arts is very special to me because without it I wouldn't be where I am now. To have received the validation, while I was in a room without a handle on the door, that I could do stuff that didn't involve crime was a revelation to me. Art's the closest thing to magic for me. I really like how it can heal and how it can make me feel, because I'm not happy if I'm not making art. It helps people address root issues and uncover the archaeology of their past behaviours that got them in to trouble. We all know this.

— John Costi, artist and former mentee

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the individuals, trusts and foundations, businesses and organisations who support our work. Your help allows us to reach and motivate some of society's most marginalised individuals, providing encouragement and a chance to celebrate positive achievements.

Thanks to our Koestler Awards judges for sharing their time and expertise, and all our volunteers who make the awards possible. We would like to thank Arts Council England, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and all our funders and supporters:

AB Charitable Trust, A M G & G Wyburd Trust, Annie Tranmer Charitable Trust, Alchemy Foundation, Arts Society Greater London Area, Arts Society Ayrshire, Arts Society Chiswick, Arts Society Speyside, Artists' Collecting Society, Arts Society Chiltern Hills Area, Big Potential, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Carmelite Chambers, CCLA, CD Stockwell Charitable Trust, Clinks (NCJAA), Creative Scotland, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Ericson Trust, Fitton Trust, Gilander Foundation, Hanley Trust, Henry Smith Foundation, Hochhauser Foundation, Honourable M L Astor's 1969 Charity, Interserve Employee Foundation, Jessie Spencer Trust, John S. Cohen Foundation, Kent Community Foundation, Kent, Surrey & Sussex CRC, Lady Hind Trust, Leigh Trust, Maingot Charitable Trust, Marie-Louise Von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, Monday Charitable Trust, Mila Charitable Organisation, N. Smith Charitable Settlement, Odin Charitable Trust, Ofenheim Charitable Trust, P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust, Pennycress Trust, Pitt-Rivers Charitable Trust, Robert Gavron Charitable Trust, School of Law, Royal Holloway University, Sir James Roll Charitable Trust, Sir Charles Jessel Trust, Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, Stella Symonds Charitable Trust, The Alchemy Foundation, The Ericson Trust, The Bromley Trust, The Hiscox Foundation, The Monument Trust (Woolbeding Charity), The Stoneybridge Trust, The Walter Guinness Charitable Trust, Taurus Foundation, Tom Stacey Charity, T. S. Eliot Foundation, United Agents, Valentine Charitable Trust, William Arthur Rudd Memorial Trust, Worshipful Company of Weavers, 5RB.

What meant the most to me was probably knowing that there is an organisation out there like Koestler that supports inmates and people inside that have a talent, that have creativity and that have the time and the patience to apply those skills to something tangible. Koestler doesn't discriminate.

— 2018 Exhibition Host

Cover: *You Can Take a Horse*, Aberdeen Probation Service, Mixed Media, 2018. Intro Page: *Teapot in the Mirror*, HM Prison Full Sutton, Painting, 2018. Back page: *Storm in the Glass of Water*, HM Prison Isle of Wight (Albany), Frederick Davies Platinum Award for Painting 2018.

Founded by the late Arthur Koestler, Sir Hugh Casson CH and the Hon David Astor CH; Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE (Hon President); Sally Taylor (Chief Executive). Trustees: Dame Anne Owers (Chair), Ariane Banks, David Banks, Nicholas Bowlby, Stephen Chambers RA, Zelda Cheatele, Jane Gillespie, Carl Hardwick, Femi Keeling, Andrea Rose, Robert Taylor, Gary Mansfield. Registered charity no. 1105759. Company limited by guarantee no.4961363. Registered office HMP Wormwood Scrubs, 168A Du Cane Road, London W12 0TX.

