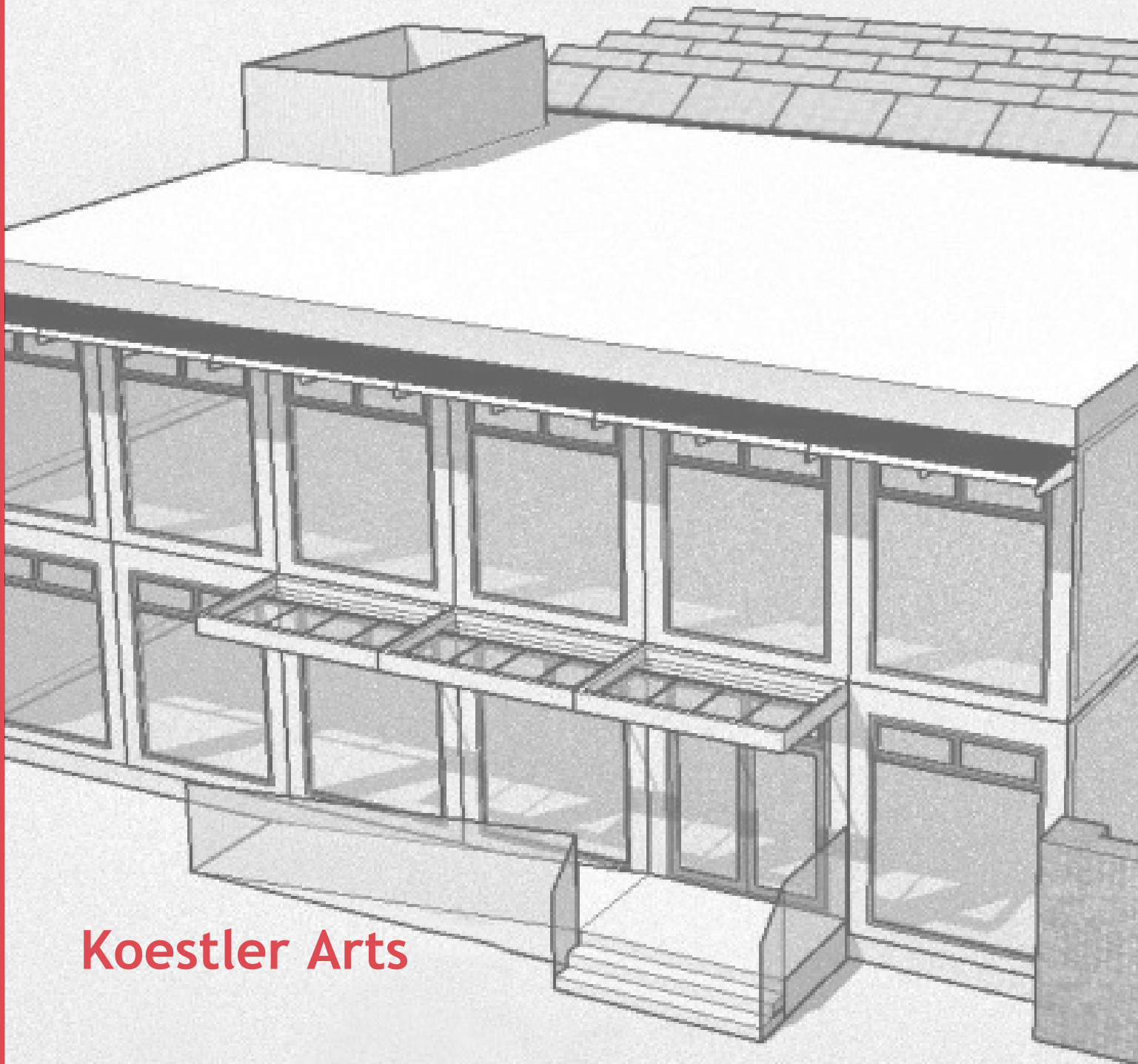
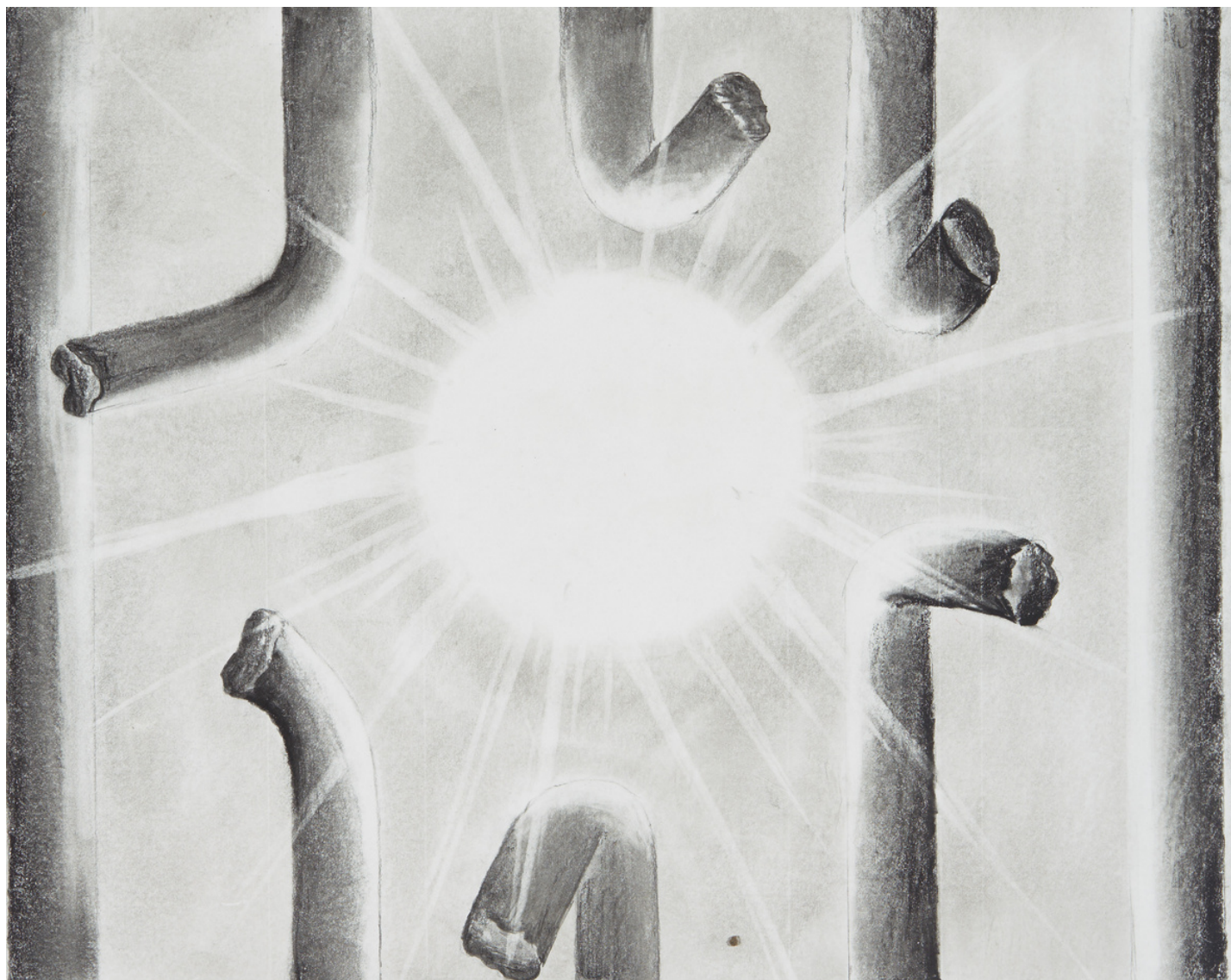


THE NEXT 60 YEARS



Koestler Arts

and the Next Chapter for Arts
in the Criminal Justice System



For almost 60 years Koestler Arts has played a unique role in motivating people in secure settings to use creativity to change their lives.

Our annual Koestler Awards and exhibitions, mentoring, employment and family engagement projects harness the transformative power of the arts. We help individuals learn the skills and gain the confidence to live creative, positive and productive lives, aiding rehabilitation and employability, and reducing reoffending. In recent years, we have significantly increased the range, reach and impact of our activities, despite challenging circumstances in prisons.

Since 1962, Koestler Arts has worked to:

- Encourage participation in the arts for prisoners, people on probation, secure mental health patients and at-risk young people across the UK, creating growth in individual lives and in artistic talents.
- Raise public awareness and understanding of art by prisoners, to change public perception and encourage greater reintegration of ex-prisoners into society.



Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen that creativity is critical.

We all know now what lockdown feels like, and the impact it can have on our relationships, wellbeing and feelings about the future. For many people in secure settings the restrictions are ongoing, and the new normal is 23 hours spent locked up in a cell.

Prison lockdowns have strained mental health, wellbeing and relationships, and we have seen our work become more important than ever. With new developments and opportunities as well as adaptations to our traditional programme, we are proud to have supported over 3,500 people in secure settings through this period.

Independent research by PERU at Manchester Metropolitan University confirmed the demonstrable impact of the Koestler Awards on building higher levels of hope, wellbeing, self-reflection and resilience.

It is support in these areas which people in secure settings so urgently need, and it is through your support that we'll be able to continue offering this lifeline.

"I owe my strength to carry on to my creative expression. Being creative is a lifeline and has always been a beacon of hope in the darkest times of my life."



2022 will see Koestler Arts relocate to a new, purpose-built home.

Since 1999, the HM Prison Service has provided Koestler Arts with premises in the former governor's house at HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Whilst these facilities have been crucial to our organisational growth, they are no longer suitable for the day-to-day needs of the charity, particularly as our ambition continues to grow.

The new Koestler Arts Centre will give us the tailormade space and facilities to allow our work to expand. More exhibitions and displays, increased communication and feedback, and greater opportunities for professional and personal development.

Installed on an adjoining plot to the current Koestler Arts Centre, we will remain at the heart of the communities we support.

Built from shipping containers, the new Koestler Arts Centre will be a purposeful, creative and inclusive space to display, process and celebrate the incredible artwork we receive each year.

"When you win a Koestler Award, it is like a bright light of hope. I had lost confidence. The Koestler Awards gave me enough light to steer me in the right direction."



1 Developing artistic achievement, raising public awareness & positive perceptions

We are committed to using our increased capacity to bring meaningful benefits to our entrants, supporters and the general public.

Each year we celebrate the achievements of around 400 artists through displaying their work at exhibitions across the UK. As well as validating their commitment to positive change through creativity, these displays offer a chance to sell work, receive feedback and reconnect with local communities.

Exhibiting artwork made in secure settings also allows us to offer audiences new perspectives on the criminal justice system.

A more accessible and welcoming head-quarters will allow us to work with curators, groups and individuals who fully represent our audiences and entrants. With more space we'll be able to expand our programme to include non-traditional venues, and diversify the ways we share artwork with people.

"I stumbled on the exhibition a few years ago, and every year I enjoy going. The stories communicated have made me more understanding of those who have offended, moving me away from a naïve 'they did bad things' point of view I was closer to than I would like to admit."



2 Raising aspirations & playing a leading role in prisoner rehabilitation

Our outreach programmes exist as a natural extension of the Koestler Awards, increasing opportunities available to all individuals impacted by the criminal justice system.

From our gold-standard mentoring project offering custody-to-community support to our family engagement work and employment opportunities, these projects extend the value of the Koestler Awards.

Working in a more efficient space will allow us to maximise the outcomes we know are most important to our entrants, principally feedback.

It will catalyse the growth of our Fast Feedback programme, our year-round commitment to our youngest entrants whose shorter sentences often preclude them from entering the awards.

"Every piece of my work had detailed feedback. I was overwhelmed. I couldn't read them all because the tears kept flowing. These people did not judge me, they judged my work. It was like a light had shone on me. I can't fully describe the feelings I had. This changed me. I didn't know it properly at the time."



3 Increasing debate & demonstrating the importance of the arts in criminal justice

Our strategic partnerships, including the National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) and the Reducing Reoffending Arts Forum, put us at the forefront of representing our sector to Government and the media.

An embedded culture of collaboration and partnership working has led to some of Koestler Arts' most exciting projects, and given our entrants opportunities to perform with Grammy award-winning musicians, meet esteemed artists such as Sir Antony Gormley and have work performed in West End theatres.

Confidently representing the value, growth and future of the sector, the new Koestler Arts Centre will cement our role as a hub for arts and criminal justice organisations. Strengthening collaborations will strengthen the sector, and secure longer-term outcomes for our entrants and beneficiaries.

The new building will allow us to offer more volunteering opportunities, and will give diverse voices a place in developing the role of arts in secure settings. The connection between communities inside and outside the criminal justice system will be strengthened, supporting rehabilitation.



The future of Koestler Arts will see wider access to our work for more people.

The next 5 years will see Koestler Arts advance and expand its work with people using creativity in the criminal justice system. New ways of working are being developed, informed directly by the experiences of entrants and stakeholders, as well as prisoners who have not participated in the Awards in the past.

We are specifically focused on broadening engagement on a number of levels, including increased opportunities for people post-release and an increased presence across the UK in non-traditional arts venues.

Founded on our learning from the past year, the future of Koestler Arts will see an increase in hybridised ways of working that will better meet the distinct needs of our different beneficiary groups and audiences.

An increase in our digital offer, specialised for people on release from prison, will create a community for people to feel part of, a hope expressed by many of our beneficiaries. Content will be generated by people with lived experience, adding authenticity as well as creating opportunities for professional development.



We'll also work to share the creativity and talent of our entrants with new audiences.

As well as creating a more efficient Awards cycle and process, our new premises will allow us to be more innovative in how we deliver our second charitable aim, to increase public awareness and understanding of arts by people in secure settings.

Through the new Koestler Arts Centre we'll be able to build better connections with our local community, and develop our unique role as an arts organisation in Hammersmith & Fulham. As we become a public-facing building for the first time, we can broaden our offer to communities involved in both criminal justice and the arts.

We will be able to more widely share the thousands of artworks, pieces of writing and music we receive each year through the Koestler Awards.

Our capacity for more frequent sales opportunities and open house events will be increased, giving our artists more chances to build their self-confidence through selling their work.

The new Koestler Arts Centre will also give us the ability to share the unique insights, skillsets and creativity of our beneficiaries more widely, through talks and workshops.



We need to raise £41,000 by March 2022 to make this project a reality.

We have secured 97% of the funds needed to complete this project, from partners including Arts Council England and Ministry of Justice. Your help in these final stages can make a real difference to securing the future for arts in the criminal justice system.

With our 60th anniversary in 2022, we are excited to be entering this next phase with a new location and new capacity.

The new Koestler Arts Centre will underpin our ability to support more people, as we continue to build on 60 years' experience, learning and partnerships.

Will you make a donation before the end of the year to ensure we can meet the needs of thousands more people impacted by the criminal justice system across the UK?

"During lockdown being creative has really been a positive process. Using creativity to celebrate what I have good in my life, such as faith, family, friends and health. Also creativity can be a good way to process feelings and emotions you may be experiencing throughout lockdown, it has helped me tremendously."



Will you join us to help the next 2 generations of people using creativity in secure settings?

In recognition of the generosity of this project's supporters there are a range of exclusive benefits and opportunities.

From £10,000 upwards these include:

- Invitation to annual event at Arts Centre with choice of artwork gift
- Invitations to exhibition previews
- Curator tours of exhibitions
- Complimentary tickets to all events
- Invitation to groundbreaking ceremony
- Bespoke award granted in Awards
- Named in annual report
- Named on plaque inside house
- Named on website and social media

From £5,000 to £9,999 these include:

- Invitation to groundbreaking ceremony
- Invitations to exhibitions previews
- First access to event tickets
- Named on plaque inside house
- Named on website and social media

From £1,000 to £4,999 these include:

- Named on plaque inside house
- Invitations to exhibitions previews
- Named on website and social media

Bespoke options can also be arranged, and we would welcome the chance to share more with you about the project.

To pledge your support for our entrants and
the future of arts in secure settings,
please get in touch with Mali Clements,
Development Director, on 07776 990812 or
mali@koestlerarts.org.uk



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