

**The Koestler Awards
and The Arts Society
City of Chichester
2022**

The 2022 Koestler Awards

Every year, the Koestler Awards give young people and adults in secure settings a chance to express themselves positively and to find new connections with others through the arts. Around 3,000 people annually take part nationwide, entering art in over 50 categories to receive certificates, handwritten feedback and Koestler Awards from our team of volunteer professional artists.

The Arts Society City of Chichester has supported the Koestler Awards across Sussex, rewarding the hard work, creativity and drive of young people in criminal justice settings to transform their lives through the arts. Thank you for making our work possible.



'The Fish Tank', National Probation Service West Sussex,
Highly Commended Award for Mixed Media

"Most people do not like to know what an ex-offender can do. They are more likely to want to see what's behind rather than what's in front of us."

- Koestler Awards entrant, 2022

The Koestler Awards in Sussex

"Being creative has made a difference, opened doors, and is making me eager to see what I can do next"

- Koestler Awards entrant, 2022

37

People took part in the Koestler Awards in East and West Sussex

89

Artworks entered in the Koestler Awards from Sussex prisoners and detainees

8

Criminal Justice Establishments in East and West Sussex joined the 2022 Koestler Awards

37 people entered the 2022 Koestler Awards from criminal justice establishments in East and West Sussex, an increase on the previous year. 20 entrants in Sussex took part in the Koestler Awards for the very first time in 2022.

Thanks to the Arts Society City of Chichester, we issued a total of 43 Koestler Awards to entrants in Sussex, awarding a combined total of £410 in prize money. Receiving recognition from outside supporters gives entrants self-confidence, pride and motivation.

Young people in Sussex

2 young people entered the Koestler Awards from secure establishments in Sussex, submitting a total of 2 artworks in our Sculpture and Drawing categories. Support from the Arts Society City of Chichester helped us provide year-round Fast Feedback to younger prisoners and detainees with shorter sentences, who may have otherwise missed out due to timings of the annual Koestler Award cycle.

Through your Award for young people the Arts Society City of Chichester has helped us give young people in secure settings a vote of confidence - that their voices are heard and that their communities want to see them build a positive future.



'Pastel Lobster', Picasso', HMP Lewes, Commended Award for Pastel

The Arts Society City of Chichester Award

The Arts Society City of Chichester Award celebrated the achievements of an artist under 25 at HM Prison Lewes. Your support means that we can continue to encourage and reward a diverse range of creative practice among entrants in Sussex and beyond.



Above: 'Birds Eye View of Lewes Prison', HM Prison Lewes, Arts Society City of Chichester
Bronze Award for Sculpture

The winner of the Arts Society City of Chichester Award entered 1 artwork in the Sculpture category. They will receive a certificate, feedback, and the knowledge that your Society wants to see them thrive.



Detail, 'Birds Eye View of Lewes Prison', HM
Prison Lewes, Arts Society City of Chichester
Bronze Award for Sculpture

Writing and Performance in Sussex

Departure

After a silent week, you went, three days before
February's end
just a bit too soon to catch the first, fragrant breathing
of that spring-

and as I wept, the world out there was turning in the
heady air,
filled with all the possibilities of hope.

Gold Award for Poem, Littlehampton Probation

12 Sussex entrants submitted 19 written pieces to the 2022 Koestler Awards, including poetry, flash fiction, song lyrics and life stories. We are looking forward to publishing our fourth anthology of poetry this year, Koestler Voices, giving more poets and writers in secure settings a positive way of expressing themselves.

"There is always voices, choices. I wanna step into the light cus all of my life is a struggle, it's a fight. Wanna soar up in the sky like a little red kite. Have my brain to myself, even just for a night.

I'm gonna kick that devil stronger than ever, with all my might. Leave him behind and step into the light, be with the angel everyday and every night: move on from the darkness and step into the light."

Extract from 'The Devil's Voice Inside My Head'
Highly Commended Award for Poem, HMP Lewes

Your support changes lives



Above: 'Jugs', HM Prison Lewes, Outstanding Debut Award for Painting

Last year, the majority of men, women and young people in secure settings were still spending less than 2 hours on the average weekday out of their cells, despite the end of the restricted Covid-19 regime.

The need for meaningful ways to spend time in cell was more pressing than ever, and by supporting the Koestler Awards, The Arts Society City of Chichester helped even more people find purpose and creativity inside in 2022, safeguarding mental health and helping to open up new horizons for life beyond release.

Thank you to everyone at The Arts Society City of Chichester for supporting some of our society's most marginalised people to rejoin their communities through art.

All of the artworks and writing featured in this booklet were entered in the 2022 Koestler Awards from Sussex

About Koestler Arts

Since 1962 Koestler Arts (formerly the Koestler Trust) has worked with people in the secure estate to transform their lives through the arts. The annual Koestler Awards give prisoners and detainees an opportunity to express themselves creatively and gain support from artists and their communities. Our annual showcase of exhibitions around the UK give Koestler Awards entrants a chance to share their creativity with the public.

To find out more about Koestler Arts and how The Arts Society City of Chichester has made our work possible, please contact Kate Harding, Development Assistant

T: 0208 4780 0333

E: kate@koestlerarts.org.uk

Koestler Arts Centre, 168a Du Cane Road, London W12 0TX

Registered Charity: 1105759