

The Arts Society City of Chichester and Koestler Arts in 2023





Our year in review



The Koestler Awards

Each year, our Awards programme offers people in secure settings the opportunity to engage in something positive, and provides inspiration to keep creating.

In 2023, our Awards entries reached pre-pandemic levels, and we received a record 8,167 entries from nearly 4,000 entrants around the UK. In order to recognise and reward the talent of our entrants, we were delighted to send certificates to everyone, and give out more than 2,000 awards including £30,000 in prize money.



Showcasing

On the back of a momentous and busy 60th anniversary year, in 2023 we hit the ground running with two regional exhibitions opening in January, in Surrey and Glasgow, followed later in the year by a display in Southampton. Our annual UK exhibition at the Southbank Centre in London was curated by multi award-winning poet, author and performer Joelle Taylor, attracting more than 8,000 visitors during the run. Over 300 entrants had their work exhibited throughout the year.

We were also pleased to launch our fourth poetry anthology, which gave us the opportunity to celebrate the talents of writers in the criminal justice system. Thanks to donations, we were able to send copies into every prison library across the country.



Outreach

Our Outreach initiatives continued to forge connections between people in the criminal justice system and their peers and communities. 'Family Days' were hosted at every exhibition, bringing friends and family members of exhibited artists to visit the displays and reconnect with their loved ones through their art.

Last year our Arts Mentoring scheme supported more than 20 mentees across the country with their artistic development, providing them with commission opportunities, whilst building a supportive community around them.



The impact of our partnership

Koestler Arts x The Arts Society City of Chichester

Thanks to your donation of £100 in 2023, we were able to provide encouragement to artists across the UK, and award the Arts Society City of Chichester Award.

This Award, given to a talented young artist at HM Prison Lewes, allowed us to recognise the talent and ingenuity of someone finding their voice and confidence through creativity.



In the Yard, HM Prison Lewes, Arts Society City of Chichester Under 25s Special Award for Drawing, 2023

Knowing that an organisation such as the Arts Society City of Chichester chose to sponsor their award will act as a huge vote of confidence for the artist, hopefully motivating them to continue creating during their time in custody.

Thanks to the support of Arts Societies and groups across the country, who generously helped us provide awards and prize money to our entrants, we were also able to organise personalised feedback for 88% of artists, send posters and awards materials into 677 secure establishments, and print special participation certificates for every single entrant to reward and encourage their talent and creativity.

"To me, just to win anything made my life so much better, I really started feeling better in myself and proud – something I haven't felt for a very long time."

– Koestler Awards entrant

Plans for the future

How your support can change lives

For over 60 years, Koestler Arts has been unlocking hidden talents, fostering community, and helping people live positive, crime free lives.



Taking a Shot, HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Feltham

This year, we want to further our impact.

Our work in 2024 will focus on:

- ✦ **Rewarding Creativity:** This year, we hope to not only offer more awards, to account for our growing entrant numbers, but also to increase the amount of cash prizes we're able to give out, to fully reflect and reward the bravery and achievements of everyone sharing their work with us.
- ✦ **Increasing Reach:** We hope to continue to diversify our marketing materials to include adverts in print, on prison radio and TV and on cell-based computers, as well as expand our prison visits programme, so more people can engage with our work.
- ✦ **Young People:** There are around 15,000 young people in the prison estate. Over the next few years we aim to expand our 'Fast Feedback' scheme, for people aged 18 and under, to ensure that our youngest entrants are motivated to use creativity as a tool for building self-confidence and learning new skills during their time in custody.

We hope to count with your renewed support this year, to ensure that we can continue to support and encourage the talent of people looking for a second chance.



Heart Fruit, HM Prison Low Moss, Painting, 2023

*"Your donation gave me a chance to change.
It gave me motivation in myself to find
another way of doing things, so thank you."
- Koestler Award winner*

*“Being creative has helped me to recognise I have a talent
and can express myself - thoughts, feelings - through
artwork. This has a calming effect on me which I never
thought possible”*

– Under 18 Koestler Awards entrant

To find out more about how we can
work together to provide hope and
motivation for people to transform
their lives, please get in touch.



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