

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

All of us in the Koestler team spend the next few weeks in and out of our exhibition at Southbank. Every time I'm there, I have a look at the latest comments in the visitors' book. It has page after page of people saying how amazed they are at the talent they see on display, and how moved they are by the experiences and life stories conveyed by the art.

That always makes me feel proud. It's the nub of what we're trying to do - to counteract some tabloid stereotypes, to show that prisons are not holiday camps, and that offenders and secure patients often have remarkable skills and potential.

Last year the exhibition was visited by nearly 15,000 people. This year we're hoping for even more. So please make sure you see it, and send your family and friends along too. And not just to the exhibition. Don't forget the events that accompany it - like the Synergy Theatre company performances of Koestler Award-winning plays, or Writers in Prison Network reading poetry and prose: see the Events section at the end.

Drama, writing, music, film, visual art - the sheer variety of artforms is inspiring, and it's a variety matches the variety of our artists - their humour, their sadness, their energy, their imagination, their pasts, their hopes. It shows, of course, that offenders, secure patients and detainees are as human as anyone else is. I hope you will enjoy celebrating their humanity as much as we do.



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Our 2011 UK Exhibition Opens

On Wednesday 21st September our 2011 UK Exhibition opened at the Royal Festival Hall, London, with events taking place throughout the day. Michael Spurr, chief executive officer of the National Offender Management Service and John Thornhill, Chairman Magistrates Association, officially opened the exhibition and both praised the work of the Koestler Trust, with Michael Spurr commenting that the Prison Service owed a huge debt of thanks to Koestler for all the good work that it does.

We were delighted that so many of our exhibited artists could join us for the opening and hope that they were as thrilled to see their work so expertly exhibited as we were. Two of our exhibited artists spoke at our *Meet the Exhibited Artists* talk as well as art tutors who represented artists who could not be there in person. Their descriptions of the importance of art, its reformative powers and the role of the art tutor were extremely powerful.



The Curating Project

Each year our UK Exhibition is given a fresh perspective through a group curating project. This year's curators were a group of 12 volunteers from the Magistrates' Association, which is celebrating its 650th anniversary. As sentencers in the Magistrates' Courts, they have brought their own perspective on the criminal justice system to our 2011 UK Exhibition at Southbank Centre.



our 2011 curators at the exhibition opening

The group learnt about curating from staff at the Koestler Trust and Southbank Centre. They visited galleries, met professional curators, and looked at all visual artworks submitted to the Koestler Awards and, eventually, made a final selection of 155 pieces.

The group shared a strong commitment to fairness and set out a clear process for making their selection which included considering each and every one of the 5000+ visual artworks in the Koestler building and then voting on them.

The group was also keen to ensure an element of individual taste made it into the selection as well, so they also agreed that each member could include one of their own individual favourites which would not otherwise have made it to the exhibition.

The curators have written captions about the artwork, and will be sharing their experiences through talks and tours throughout the exhibition's run.

'I will take away a huge sense of pride that the exhibition is representative of the art and what we saw in it. And a reminder of how serious our role as JPs is when we decide to send someone to prison.'

Exhibition Tours - Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm, Saturday 3pm (Free, no booking necessary)

Awards results are now in

Congratulations to all our award winners! It's been a great year for entrants; we received a record 7,656 entries.

Particular praise must be extended to Ashworth Hospital and HM Prison Parc for their success in this year's awards. Ashworth Hospital submitted the largest number of entries from a secure hospital and HM Prison Parc in Wales submitted the largest number of entries from a prison and also won the most awards. Representatives from both establishments were presented with special Koestler certificates at the opening of our exhibition by Michael Spurr, chief executive officer of the National Offender Management Service, in recognition of their achievement.



Sean Corr, Education Department. Ashworth Hospital with Michael Spurr.



Janet Wallsgrove, Director HM Prison Parc with Michael Spurr.

[To see the full results go to our website](#)

Inside Story – An interview with an exhibited artist



The Art Room Brixton, Anon.
HM Prison Brixton. Silver Award for Drawing

Each issue we interview a Koestler Awards entrant about their experience of entering the awards.

M currently has one of his award entries exhibited at our UK National exhibition.

How did you come to create this work of art?

I was doing a lot of sketching of figures and portraits from life using, in part, other prisoners working in the art room as models. It was suggested that I might make a collage from these. I decided to do something similar, namely to do a single large drawing incorporating a number of figures and to place them within a framework drawn from the art room.

What do you hope your drawing will say to people?

I wanted to depict an environment in which prisoners were partly on their own, partly collectively engaged, with a very dedicated teacher, in a very meaningful and constructive activity. For various reasons, including ill health, the 'Art Room' took a very long time to complete; but I had it in mind, had I had the time, to make it the first of a series depicting other centres of such activity within Brixton. The prison gym and the chapel were next on my list.

What difference has art made to you?

I think a new direction is a very important part of my strategy for avoiding re-offending now I am out of prison. I have always had a great interest in art; but had not actually done any artwork since very early adulthood. Whilst in prison I found I was able to develop a talent for drawing people – both as portraits and active figures that I never believed I had. I do certainly intend to continue developing this and I believe it can provide me with a new focus for my life.

What was it like coming to the exhibition and seeing your work on display?

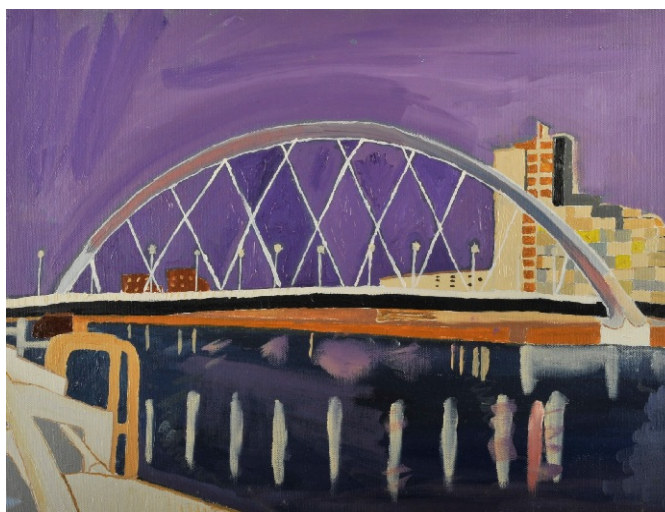
I was really enormously impressed at how beautifully the whole exhibition was set up. It was a great privilege to have a work showing in such a wonderful setting and gave me huge satisfaction after what was, in the circumstances in which much of it was done, a considerable amount of work.

I was also pleased to have the opportunity at the Opening to talk not just about my work, but about my strong conviction as to the very important role played by education in prison, and by the heroic teachers who come "through the wall" daily to teach, in bringing normal society and a sense of being included in it, to prisoners.

The Koestler Exhibition for Scotland 2011

This year's Koestler exhibition for Scotland will be held in November at Tramway in Glasgow. The exhibition will showcase new artwork by offenders, secure patients and detainees from Scotland and will be curated by young women from HM Prison & Young Offender Institution Cornton Vale.

The young women from Cornton Vale were involved in an intensive training course facilitated by Koestler which equipped them with the skills needed to select artworks for this exhibition. They made their selection from a long list of 200 visual works, they decided on themed areas and have written personal responses to the artwork, some of which will be displayed alongside the art at the Exhibition.



Colours of Glasgow, Anon, HMP Kilmarnock, Oil & Acrylic

VISITING INFORMATION

5 November - 27 November

**Exhibition opens from Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm | Sunday 12am to 6pm, Monday Closed (Free entry)
Upper Foyer, Tramway 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow, G41 2PE**

60 seconds with ...Katie

Katie graduated this summer from St Martins College of Art and she is currently volunteering with us as an Intern.

How did you hear about the Koestler Trust and why did you want to get involved?

I was looking for some work experience after graduating. Specifically I wanted a role within an arts organisation that has either an education or accessibility focus. I looked at 'Arts Jobs' and came across the Koestler Trust. They were looking for an intern to help them with their 2011 Scotland Exhibition in Glasgow. I applied and, after interview, was offered the role.

What aspect of your work have you most enjoyed?

I really enjoyed working with the women from Cornton Vale on the curating project for the 2011 Scotland Exhibition. I had never been inside a prison before and it was great to see how the women responded to the artwork. It was an amazing opportunity and I was impressed by how eloquent they were. The women particularly loved pictures that told a story or had a message, and they liked hearing the stories behind the artwork; like how they had been created. One piece that was quite childlike was initially disliked by all of the group but when they heard about how long it had taken to create they all found new value in it and selected it for the exhibition.

I was also touched by the fact that they wanted to ensure that the selected artists knew why their work had been selected for the exhibition. It was clear that they really understood the environment in which the art had been created and had complete empathy with the artists.



Katie working in our exhibition shop

If you could choose any artist (living or dead) to paint your portrait who would you choose?

I would like Glaswegian artist David Shrigley to do a caricature of me!

The Koestler Trust often has roles available for volunteers and interns and they are advertised on our website.

Nomination for charity of the year

Charity Times have just announced the shortlist for their 2011 Charity Awards and we're delighted to be nominated for:

Charity of the Year: With an income of less than £1million

The award will be given to the organisation that the judges believe has consistently delivered outstanding service to its beneficiaries, promoted and raised its cause, been clear in its goals and strategy, and demonstrated excellence all round, especially within the last year.

The winners will be announced at a black tie gala dinner on the 12th October 2011 at the London Hilton, Park Lane.

Mention by Stephen Fry on Twitter

If you know about Twitter you will know that Stephen Fry is one of its hugest fans; having made over nine thousand tweets to date and with over 3.1 million followers. Well, it seems that Stephen Fry is also a huge fan of us, as on the 10th August he tweeted that we are one of his seven favourite charities!

As a result we received over 800 visitors to our website in one day!

If you are on twitter please follow us for up to date news and interesting links.



Events



Monday 17 – Sunday 30 October

- **GOTOJAIL: THE CELL PROJECT**

RideOut's replica cell, where an ex-offender appears 'in role' as a serving prisoner and gives visitors the opportunity to debate prison issues.

Royal Festival Hall Foyer, 10am – 11pm

FREE

<p>Monday 17 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STORIES FROM BEHIND THE SCENES <p>London Playback makes magical theatre out of audience and curators' responses to the <i>Art by Offenders</i> exhibition.</p>
<p>Wednesday 19 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEAUTIFUL SENTENCE <p>Spoken-word poet Leah Thorn demonstrates the power of expressive writing in this workshop.</p>
<p>Thursday 20 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE ARGUMENT ROOM <p>Interactive debating forum addressing issues around arts and social justice. Join in live online.</p>
<p>Friday 21 & Saturday 22 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall 6.30pm on Friday & 2pm on Saturday FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THEATRE IN PRISONS <p>Script in hand readings of quality drama from the Koestler Awards.</p>
<p>Tuesday 25 October Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 ANNE PEAKER DEBATE <p>Annual debate on arts and criminal justice focuses on new research into the economic impact of arts with offenders.</p>
<p>Wednesday 26 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEET THE CURATORS <p>Talk and discussion with some of the magistrates who have curated the <i>Art By Offenders</i> exhibition.</p>
<p>Thursday 27 October Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm FREE (Ticket required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRITERS IN PRISONS <p>Writers in Prisons Network and prison writing publication <i>Not Shut Up</i> present an evening of readings from the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>Friday 28 October The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, 6pm FREE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DANCE UNITED & ONLY CONNECT <p>Powerful, physical performances from companies whose performers include ex-offenders.</p>

The Koestler Trust's involvement in these events is supported by Bloomberg.

Please [visit our website](#) for more details about the events and how to book a ticket.

The SERCO Big Art Sale



The SERCO Big Art Sale Room

There will be a chance to buy artwork submitted to this year's Koestler awards at the SERCO Pop Up Art Sale,
White Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall
1 – 7pm
16 – 20 November 2011

Let us know your views

We would love to hear from you, please email us at info@koestlertrust.org.uk with comments on anything you have read