

THE KOESTLER AWARDS AND THE ARTS SOCIETY CITY OF CHICHESTER

The 2021 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.



'In the Can', National Probation Service West Sussex, Watercolour and Gouache

"Being creative in prison has made a massive difference to me and my life...I never knew I had a talent like this" 2021 Koestler Award winner

The Koestler Awards in Sussex

"Getting my letter [announcing a Koestler Award] was the best thing ever. This means everything to me."

2021 Koestler Award winner

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

76 Artworks entered in the Koestler Awards from Sussex prisoners and detainees

6 Criminal Justice Establishments in East and West Sussex joined the 2021 Koestler Awards

26 people entered the 2021 Koestler Awards from criminal justice establishments in East and West Sussex. 15 entrants in Sussex took part in the Koestler Awards for the very first time in 2021.

Thanks to the Arts Society City of Chichester, we issued a total of 29 Koestler Awards to entrants in Sussex, awarding a combined total of £570 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 5 artworks. 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 and bespoke feedback 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.

"Untitled", Southampton Youth Offending Service, Arts Society City of Chichester Highly Commended Award for Photography



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The Arts Society City of Chichester Award

The Arts Society City of Chichester Award celebrated the achievements of an artist under 25, who submitted work in the Photography category. Your support means that we can continue to encourage and reward a diverse range of creative practice among entrants in Sussex and beyond.



Above: 'Togetherness', HM Prison Lewes, Victor Roberts Highly Commended Award for Themed Category: Together

Right: 'Camel', HM Prison Lewes, Highly Commended Award for Drawing

The winner of the Arts Society City of Chichester Award entered 7 artworks in the Photography, Drawing and Portrait categories. They will receive a certificate, feedback, and the knowledge that your Society wants to see them thrive.

Writing and performance in Sussex

"As our vision fades and we ask what mattered to each other we can say we fought a pandemic and made black lives matter "

Extract from 'United Kingdom Twenty Twenty', HM Prison Lewes, First-Time Entrant Award for Poem

Sussex entrants submitted 26 written pieces to the 2021 Koestler Awards, including poetry, flash fiction, song lyrics and life stories. We are proud to have published our third anthology of poetry this year, Koestler Voices, giving more poets and writers in secure settings a positive way of expressing themselves.

"I hail from Stoke Newington, North East London. It is where my Granddad Cecil chose to settle when he arrived in the UK as part of the HMS Windrush generation [...]"

My Granddad never made me feel judged...my Grandad worked hard all his life and he was rewarded with a family that adored and admired him."

Extract from 'Untitled', HM Prison Lewes, Highly Commended Award for Life Story

Your support changes lives



'When I Grow Up I Want to be Tiffany', HM Prison Lewes, Commended Award for Sculpture

For the past 60 years, and particularly through the pandemic and the ongoing restrictions, the Koestler Awards have been there as a reliable and rewarding way for people in prisons to continue achieving and building new connections with the outside world.

The Arts Society City of Chichester has given this same pride and achievement to more people in Sussex. 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.

"The Koestler Awards are the highlight of my year. Thank you for your time, encouragement and support, you've made my time in prison more bearable."

2021 Koestler Award winner

All of the artworks and writing featured in this booklet were entered in the 2021 Koestler Awards from Sussex and Southampton Youth Offending Service.

