



PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 16 June 2021

Explore *My Path: Art by people in the criminal justice system* at Ripon's Prison & Police Museum

A new exhibition showcasing artwork from across the criminal justice system comes to the Prison & Police Museum in Ripon this summer, opening on Tuesday 29 June and running until Sunday 26 September 2021.

My Path is a creative walk through the criminal justice system. It showcases artworks from across Yorkshire, which were submitted to the 2020 Koestler Awards for arts in the criminal justice system. Every work shown was made by someone in a prison, secure hospital, young offender institution or on probation.

Koestler Arts exhibitions reveal talent and hope in challenging situations. Many of the artists created their work at the height of the pandemic in settings which had 23-hour lockups in place. They often had limited art materials, so each work represents a significant achievement.

The artworks on display have toured from an earlier version of *My Path*, at Millennium Gallery in Sheffield in Spring 2021. Young people supported by Sheffield Youth Justice Service curated the original version, bringing their insight and imagination to the selection. Staff and volunteers at Ripon Museums then chose the smaller selection that will be on display at the Prison & Police Museum, focusing on themes of nature, journeys and the prison experience.

Helen Thornton, Director at Ripon Museum Trust, said: "We're so pleased to be able to share this exhibition with the people of Ripon. We think visitors will be impressed by the artwork on display, which makes for a moving and powerful experience. Thank you to Koestler Arts for bringing this exhibition to the Prison & Police Museum."

Sally Taylor, Chief Executive of Koestler Arts, said: "We're very glad to have this opportunity to bring Koestler Awards artwork from *My Path* to Ripon. Viewing Koestler Arts artwork inside what were once historic cells will make for an interesting juxtaposition of old and new. It is also a wonderful statement about the power of creativity at this extraordinary time."

The Prison & Police Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday, 1pm – 4pm. Entrance to the exhibition is included in the cost of museum entry. All tickets to Ripon Museums are valid for repeat visits over a 12-month period. Visit [riponmuseums.co.uk](https://www.riponmuseums.co.uk) for bookings or

telephone 01765 690799. Ripon Museums have COVID-19 safety measures in place and have been awarded the Visit Britain We're Good to Go industry standard.

Some of the visual artworks in the show are for sale through Koestler Arts, with prices ranging from £40 to £500. The money raised from artwork sales goes to the artist, the charity Victim Support and towards the cost of running the Koestler Awards. Visit koestlerarts.org.uk/shop for more information.

-ENDS-

Notes to editor

Image caption: *Murmuration*, HM Prison Wealstun, Watercolour and Gouache

For more information or interviews, please contact Amy Lord, Marketing Manager at Ripon Museum Trust, email amy.lord@riponmuseums.co.uk.

For Koestler Arts related press enquiries, please contact Fiona Curran at Koestler Arts, email fiona@koestlerarts.org.uk.

Opening hours

Our regular opening hours are:

- The Workhouse Museum & Garden is open six days a week (closed Mondays) 11am - 4pm.
- The Prison & Police Museum is open six days a week (closed Mondays) 1pm - 4pm.
- The Courthouse Museum is open six days a week (closed Mondays) 1pm - 4pm.

The museums also open on selected Bank Holidays and will be open on Monday 31 May.

About Ripon Museum Trust

Ripon Museum Trust manages three museums: the Workhouse Museum & Garden, the Prison & Police Museum and the Courthouse Museum.

The Trust is a volunteer driven organisation with volunteering at the heart of everything we do. Our team of over 140 dedicated, enthusiastic and skilled volunteers look after the three unique heritage buildings, their collections and visitors.

Ripon Museum Trust has National Portfolio Funding from Arts Council England (ACE) for its exhibitions and learning programmes.

About Koestler Arts

Koestler Arts is the working name of the Koestler Trust. The charity was set up by the writer Arthur Koestler in 1962 to encourage participation in the arts by people in the criminal justice system, and to share that talent and potential with the public. It is the UK's best-known prison arts charity, working across the whole of the UK's criminal justice system – in prisons, secure

hospitals, immigration centres, young offender institutions and in the community. Their work harnesses the uniquely transformative power of the arts, encouraging the creative rehabilitative journeys of some of society's most marginalised individuals.

The Koestler Awards are simple and powerful. They motivate people across the whole of the UK's criminal justice system to participate in the arts, and to show the public their talent and contribution to society. Each year Koestler Arts receives thousands of entries, in 52 art categories. Entrants receive feedback and certificates, can be selected for public exhibitions or mentoring, and may sell their visual artwork. Koestler Arts holds a programme of exhibitions and events each year around the UK. The biggest is the annual exhibition at London's Southbank Centre, which c.20,000 people visit. Despite Covid-19, the 2020 Koestler Awards went ahead with socially distanced judging panels and the UK exhibition at Southbank Centre took place as an outdoor installation in the autumn. This year the exhibition will return to its usual location in the Royal Festival Hall and will run from 28 October until 5 December 2021.

<https://www.koestlerarts.org.uk/>

info@koestlerarts.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

