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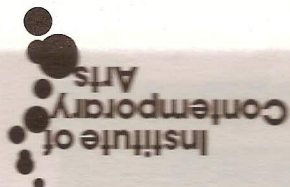
Alan Taylor, and Nilufer von Bismar  
David Koester, Michael Marino, Martha Mehta,  
Robert Kenedi, Marlies and Michael Kershaw,  
for their continued support: Gabrielle Howatson,  
The ICA would also like to thank the following

www.ica.org.uk/insiderart  
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ICA

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Designed by Sara De Bondt and Kaisa Lassinaro

All photographs by Marcus J Leith

12 July-9 September 2007  
Institute of Contemporary Arts, London  
Insider Art: Art from the Koestler Awards Scheme  
Produced on the occasion of the exhibition



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# INSIDER

ART FROM THE KOESTLER AWARDS SCHEME

# ART

In association with  
Koestler Trust  
arts by offenders ■■■

Supported by  
Bloomberg



## INTRODUCTION

*Insider Art* is an exhibition of art by prisoners and others in confinement in Britain – including inmates of young offender institutions, high security psychiatric hospitals, secure units and immigration removal centres, as well as offenders supervised by probation and youth offending teams. The exhibition contains nearly two hundred works, all of them made in the last year, and features painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, woodwork, textiles and other media. The works are drawn from establishments across the country, and many pieces are for sale (a pricelist is available on request, and proceeds from sales will be divided between the artists, the Koestler Trust and Victim Support).

All of the works in the exhibition have been gathered together for the Koestler Awards Scheme, an annual open submission competition which promotes art and design across the criminal justice system (as well as work in other fields such as music and creative writing). The competition is the largest event in the prison art year, and in 2007 it received over 3,100 entries in the art and design categories. Entries are sent to the Koestler Arts Centre at HMP Wormwood Scrubs, and about a quarter of the entrants receive certificates and prizes – ranging from £20 to £100 – awarded by a panel of judges who also give feedback on individual works.

*Insider Art* contains only a portion of the art and design entries to the 2007 Koestler Awards Scheme, and only a portion of the award-winners. Instead our aim has been to create an exhibition especially for the ICA, selected by Zelda Cheatle (photography consultant and Koestler trustee), Grayson Perry (artist), Dr Mike Phillips (author and curator, Tate) and myself. Contemporary art has become very fashionable in Britain in recent years, creating a context in which we can easily forget that people make art for a wide range of reasons, and that many of the most amazing works are made by non-professional artists. The ICA is very proud to host an exhibition which reflects the great talents contained within some of Britain's least public institutions.

*Insider Art* would not have been possible without the Koestler Trust, which, since its foundation in 1962 by the writer Arthur Koestler, has played a unique national role in promoting art in the criminal justice system – and showcasing this art to the public. This year is also notable for the launch of Koestler Mentors, artists



Peter Thomas, *Puppet Master*, HMP Dartford,  
Kilger 2nd Prize for Sculpture

trained to support award-winners in their arts activity after their release from prison. The Trust is an independent charity and for over twenty years a fifth of its running costs have been met by government grant. This grant will be cut entirely from 2007, and now more than ever the Trust needs broad public support (for more information on the Trust and its work see [www.koestlertrust.org.uk](http://www.koestlertrust.org.uk)).

The ICA would like to thank all of the artists whose works feature in the exhibition, and to recognise the support they receive from their teachers. We would also like to thank everyone at the Koestler Trust, including Tim Robertson, Joss Blake, Norman Home, Steve Porter, Dean Stalham and Ceri Williams. We would like to extend a special thank you to the external selectors of *Insider Art*, and to others who gave us help and advice, notably the artists Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane – whose own projects have sometimes featured art by prisoners, and whose input helped bring this exhibition into being. Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Bloomberg, who are generously supporting *Insider Art* as well as the ongoing work of the Koestler Trust.

Mark Sladen  
Director of Exhibitions, ICA