

Press release – July 2017

**ANTONY GORMLEY TO CURATE *INSIDE*, AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY PRISON
ARTISTS FOR KOESTLER TRUST AND SOUTHBANK CENTRE**

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Koestler Trust annual exhibition at the Southbank Centre, one of Britain's most revered artists, Antony Gormley, has been invited to curate the 2017 edition. The free exhibition, entitled 'Inside' will run from Thursday 21 September – Wednesday 15 November 2017 in the Spirit Level of Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall. Works included in the exhibition will have been produced by detainees in the UK's prisons, secure hospitals and immigration removal centres as well as by ex-offenders in the community.

The artworks selected for the exhibition come from over 7,000 pieces of fine art, design, writing and music, entered into this year's Koestler Awards. Some of the artworks are for sale, with 25% of original artwork sales proceeds going to Victim Support, 25% to Koestler Trust and 50% to entrants. Throughout the exhibition there will be a pop-up shop and guided tours, both staffed by ex-offenders who have been trained and employed by the Koestler Trust.

Antony Gormley, curator, said:

"I want to celebrate this great resource: the imaginations of the 85,000 prisoners currently in UK prisons and those in secure establishments. Art is a place in which you can do what you like; it need not be for or about anyone else but the artist. In the words of one prisoner, 'in our minds we can always be free'. I want this work to say something to all of us outside about what it feels like to be a detainee, inside."

Sally Taylor, Chief Executive, Koestler Trust: *"The Koestler Trust is thrilled to be able to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its UK exhibitions at Southbank Centre by inviting Antony Gormley to curate the show this year. He is an inspirational*

figure and much-loved artist both for our entrants and the general public, and we anticipate with great excitement a unique, provocative and thoughtful approach to the curation of the exhibition.”

Jude Kelly CBE, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre, said: *“Southbank Centre and The Koestler Trust both know that the arts have the ability to change lives and over the last decade it's been a privilege to build our partnership and endorse such a rich and incredible range of artistic expression and potent stories. In this tenth year, the choice of Antony Gormley as curator ensures that the exhibition will be inspiring, thought provoking and provide the context for the important debate around the role of creative life within the penal system.”*

Details of works to be included in the exhibition will be released at a later date.

-Ends-

Notes to editors

- **Listings information**

Inside: Art by offenders, secure patients and detainees from the 2017 Koestler Awards curated by Antony Gormley

Spirit Level at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

21 September – 15 November 10am -11pm

Free, no booking required

- The **Koestler Trust** is the UK's best-known prison arts charity, working across the whole of the British criminal justice system – in prisons, secure hospitals, immigration centres, young offender institutions and in the community.

The Trust runs the annual Koestler Awards to motivate people to participate in the arts, and to showcase the talent and potential of people in the criminal justice system to the public. Around 3,000 people enter the Awards each year. Entrants receive feedback and certificates, can be selected for public exhibitions or mentoring, and may sell their visual artwork. The Trust holds a programme of exhibitions and events each year around the UK. The biggest is the annual exhibition at London's Southbank Centre, which over 20,000 people visit.

Each of the 51 categories (such as computer generated music, spoken word, sculpture, animation, fashion, portrait, fiction and poetry) are judged by experts in the field. This year's Awards judges include leading professionals such as Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller; ceramic designer Emma Bridgewater; and documentary filmmaker Louis Theroux. Artwork can be entered into the Koestler Awards on any theme and it will be judged on its artistic merit.

Once this year's Awards judging is over, entries will get another chance to shine, when Antony Gormley makes his selection for the exhibition at London's Southbank Centre, themed 'Inside.' The exhibition will be open from 21 September to 15 November 2017.

- **Antony Gormley** is well-known for his sculptures, installations and public artworks that investigate the relationship of the human body to space. His work has developed the potential opened up by sculpture since the 1960s through a critical engagement with both his own body and those of others, in a way that confronts fundamental questions of where human beings stand in relation to nature and the cosmos. Gormley continually tries to identify the space of art as a place of becoming in which new behaviours, thoughts and feelings can arise.

Gormley's work has been widely exhibited throughout the UK and internationally with exhibitions at Forte di Belvedere, Florence (2015); Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2014); Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia (2012); Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (2012); The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg (2011); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2010); Hayward Gallery, London (2007); Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (1993) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (1989). He has also participated in major group shows such as the Venice Biennale (1982 and 1986) and Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany (1987).

Gormley was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994. In 1997 he was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) and was made a knight in the New Year's Honours list in 2014. He was born in London in 1950.

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17- acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk

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