



Press Release

7 December 2022

For Immediate Release

Young people have art work displayed at Koestler Art Exhibition

Three students at Cygnet Hospital Bury's Excel & Exceed Centre have had their artwork chosen to be included in the annual Koestler Art Exhibition at the Southbank Gallery in London.

The Excel and Exceed Centre allows children and young people who are admitted to Cygnet Bury with mental health needs to continue their schooling during their hospital stay. The students selected for this prestigious exhibition learnt to weave during their weekly art lessons with Art Teacher, Sally Craig.

They then used these new skills to create designs around the theme of 'Taste' to enter this year's Koestler Arts competition. The students chose to weave designs inspired by the different colours and textures of fruit.

When one of the young people found out that their work had been chosen to appear in the exhibition they said: "I didn't think my work would be chosen but I was thrilled to think that it would be in a London Art Gallery."

On her students' achievements Sally said: *"It was fantastic to see some of the work from our young people to be chosen to be exhibited."*

"They worked so hard and it was great that their work was recognised. Well done to all three young people for this brilliant achievement."

This year the exhibition is called 'Freedom' which has been curated by Chinese contemporary artist, documentarian and activist, Ai Weiwei.

Weiwei's aim was for the exhibition to be as inclusive as possible and to let the artwork show how humanity responds when put in extreme circumstances.

The exhibition is taking place in Exhibition Space, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre until 18th December 2022.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Koestler Awards. The exhibition exists to help individuals in secure hospital settings and detainees lead more positive lives by motivating them to participate and achieve in the arts. Each year Koestler Arts holds exhibitions to showcase the fantastic artwork that is produced by people in these settings.

Ends

Ends

Notes to Editors

For interviews, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, at gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk

About Cygnet Health Care

Cygnet Health Care has been providing a national network of high-quality, specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities for the past 30 years.

Cygnet Health Care's pioneering services support people with complex and acute mental health needs across the UK.

As one of the best quality providers in mental health services in the country, Cygnet Health Care's focus is always on the best outcomes for those who use or commission its services. 85% of Cygnet's facilities are rated as good or outstanding, which is above the national average. www.cygnethealth.co.uk