

My month as an AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE has been a very positive experience. As well as allowing me time to work on current projects and to develop new ideas based on my experience here in Krems, it has also given me the opportunity to meet other artists, both contemporaneously in residence and also others with whom I exhibited while I was here. The facilities here in AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE are excellent, the organisation is managed well and efficiently, and also sympathetically, due in no small way to the sensitive ministrations of the staff - for which, viele Danke! The residency apartments are well equipped and comfortable - almost too clean to think of as studio environments at all. But, at the end of the day, what a good residency experience offers is a space that is not only physical, but also a space in which the creative mind can wander, reflect and take stock, and also tease out the bones of new work. And AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE certainly delivers on this.



Residencies are like laboratories, each one is different, and the outcomes are rarely predictable; and that is as it should be, it is their nature. So, while we might have certain expectations or aspirations, what there shouldn't be is the pressure to deliver resolved or completed projects. If it happens, great, but it is equally important to come away with a bit of creative clarity as a result of the opportunity for some headspace. And in truth a month isn't that long - it always takes a few days to settle in and get one's bearings. Krems an der Donau (or perhaps more correctly Stein/Und/Krems) is a quiet, pretty town set between the Danube and the vineyard covered hills behind, about 2 hours by train from Vienna. While it doesn't offer the bustling energy of Vienna, it has a strong and impressive arts infrastructure of the Kunstmeile ('Art Mile') and also a network of neighbouring cultural institutions in the region.



So, while a month is not a long time, some ongoing projects have been continued, and some new ones instigated and groundworked. The first piece that was accomplished was the completion of *Compulse*, a video that featured as part of my concurrently running exhibition at DOK Niederösterreich in St Pölten. This work was installed along with a series of paintings, *Crossing 1-12*, as part of the exhibition Kulturpreise des Landes Niederösterreich 18 in association with AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE and curator Günther Oberhollenzer. Another project was instigated as a result of walks in the vineyards behind Krems. *Landwriting/Landschreiben* is based on the rhythmic mark-making displayed in the posts supporting the vines. Also, taking advantage of the untypical November sunshine, material for a new video-based project was also collected. Rather like *Landwriting/Landschreiben*, how this new material will finally be expressed is a work in progress. I also participated in a workshop organised by fellow AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Perrine Lacroix in preparation for her exhibition *KONTEXT(E)* in Stadthalle Krems. The resulting work featured both in an opening night performance and as part of the exhibition. And lastly, I have also had the time to work on a collaborative project with Brazilian artist Juliana Neves Hoffmann that was instigated earlier this year.



So it has been a productive month, and has given me both time to reflect on my practice and to develop new avenues to investigate and realise. I have also made some good professional contacts through networking opportunities. So for all this, thank you AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, Sabine Güldenfuß and all the team.