

REPORT from Margareta Klingberg.

Time is precious here. To me it has meant that I was given a lot of time. Relieved from many daily duties I have had time for thinking, writing, doing. I have had time BOTH for simple yoga routines AND morning walks every day, first along the Donau, then up the hills I see from my window. As a preparation for the hours I have spent daily at the computer. On the other hand this makes me greedy when it comes to time. I would have preferred to write this report after the end of my residency. And save the precious time here for concentration on my own work and writing. The cultural activities I have followed have been interesting. Not least today's visit at Ernst Kreneks Forum. But unfortunately, for me, some events have been scheduled at the day's best working hours. Being selfish is not considered to be a virtue. But artists often are or have to be. All the better James Rushford's performance at the Krenek Forum was in the evening. A beautiful moment during my time here. I enjoyed the concert as well as the sacred space in the Minoriten building.

During my time here I have worked along three lines. I have reviewed some of my own works and texts. I have seen The Great Masters during weekend visits to the museums in Wien. I have taken the opportunity to cross the borders to close neighbour countries. I have walked over the borders of Slovenia, Croatia and back again and documented what I saw from both sides by photos.

To me as a Swedish citizen living most of my time in Northern Sweden it is irresistible to have such offers close at hand. In the privileges I have experienced here I include both the nearby collections of paintings and the closeness to other countries.

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich is a comfortable place for artist's work. And beautiful. For several reasons. My bright studio faces both the Donau and the hills on the opposite side. I have been able to concentrate on my subjects. I ask myself why I can't organize my life this way in Sweden. I will not answer that question here.

There have been small discussions among us artist about how and what to eat in Austria. At one event we had advices from a younger Austrian colleague, which I appreciated. The good quality of food here is part of the comfort, I believe. It's Bärlauch-time. Bio-options are many. To be able to buy fresh goats and sheep milk at any supermarket is

high standard. We realize that during our month here we have to exercise daily either in the morning or evening to avoid gaining weight. As I mentioned in the beginning; there has been time to do so.

Austria is known for good coffee. As many in Sweden I'm a great coffee drinker. But I'm also a great consumer of tea. Everything is well prepared for coffee in our studios. I only wish here where also a teapot.

My time here has simply been a privilege. After all, we are paid during our residency.

There has been no reason to worry about the fare for the tickets to Wien.

Or, in my case, to Maribor and back again. I take the opportunity to mention that I also have received a grant from Swedish IASPIS, part of the Swedish Arts Grants Committee which promotes international cultural exchange and mobility.

I have not had the intention to seek asylum in Austria. But Austria has given me asylum for a while as well as the permission to work here.

Krems an der Donau, April 25. 2109

Margareta Klingberg