

Report – Michal Hvorecky – March 2019

Thank you very much for the opportunity to live and write here in March 2019! I appreciate the attitude of the wonderful Literaturhaus Niederösterreich und the whole AIR-Team. I really enjoyed my stay and could work here intensively.

I tried to finish my new novel called Tahiti. In this work of fiction I imagine an alternate version of middle European history. The plot is set in the real world, but in a version where a past event turned out differently. The book gives us a way to look at our history—and sometimes our present—with different eyes. It begins in 1919 when only Czech Republic is founded and what we now call Slovakia remains a part of Upper Hungary. Slovaks live in exile in French Polynesia. Believe it or not – this was a real plan of mass migration during the times of oppression in the years 1890 till 1914. The book, an utopia, chronicles the bizarre and unexpected history of the new society on the islands.

I missed only one thing – a public reading in Krems an der Donau. But it might happen later. Otherwise it was truly perfect.

I especially appreciated the good connection to local art institutions such as Kunsthalle or Susanne Wenger Foundation. I also like readings in Vienna and in Sitzenberg-Reidling – otherwise I would never get there.

6. 3. 2019 Slowakisches Intitut Wien

14. 3. 2019 Burgtheater, Kasino

20. 3. 2019 Sitzenberg-Reidling, Bibliothek

Sincerely,

Michal Hvorecky