

PAOLO RUMIZ REPORT FOR AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, June 2019

There are moments in the life, when a person needs silence and concentration, for professional and sometimes also personal reasons. I found these things in Air, Krems, thanks to the beauty of the place, the good organisation of housing and the kindness of the staff. I was writing an extremely difficult book, one of these books impossible to be written in the middle of a chaotic everyday life, a poem in verses about the myth of Europe, and here in Krems I could go on successfully with the job. More than a thousand verses have been written during the time of my presence here.

I could also give two speeches about my last books translated in German language (Istituto Italiano di Cultura 5.6.19 in Vienna, and Società Dante Alighieri (Literaturhaus Salzburg 6.6.19 in Salzburg). The day 22.6 I participated to the so called "sofa tour", a wandering original interview en plein air organized by Josef Trettner in Krems (see photos). At 23-24 of June I spent one day and a half in the Göttweig abbey in order to add an Austrian monastery to the German edition-to-come of my last Italian book about the Benedictine world in Europe (Il filo infinito, for a long time a best seller this spring time), to be presented during the next Kulturfestival Literatur&Wein in the Göttweig abbey next April. The 25.6 three members of the Academy of Grenze (Klaus Pumberger, Monika Kerschbaumer and Elisabeth Freithofer) came here from Vienna in order to visit me and organize a border initiative in Trieste in the year 2021.

I must therefore admit that the residence in Krems has been not only useful but also unforgettable. I appreciated the beauty of Stein, the easiness of finding a magnificent bicycle network, heuriger, good wine and interesting museums. And by the way, the stream of Danube is a perfect company. I navigated it on kayak and obviously on board of a ship in the Wachau valley. I also have been riding about 1000 km during the month between Melk, Weissenkirchen, Krems, Horn and Sankt Poelten. During the residency I missed maybe a bit the contact with other artists because the difference of age (I was the oldest of the company) and of our daily life very different timetables. My room was too hot, and sleeping not easy. It has been very difficult to sleep after 5 in the morning because of the sun in summer sonnenwende zeit was getting through the window very very early. But the company was good, very well selected and the sun has been shining quite every day. There is not easy to find disadvantages in this AIR experience. I can maybe suggest a better contact with local common life, outside intellectuals, arts and literature.

Projects:

- Writing a poem about the myth of Europe today
- Preparing the german translation of my last book about benedectine network in Europe (this included a visit to Goettweig abbey)
- Choosing the texts of my speach for European Spirit of Youth Orchestra (Esyo), tournée 2019
- Scheduling a trip of the Academy of Grenze, spring 2021, to Trieste
- Planning my participation to festival Literatur & Wein next april in Goettweig abbey
- Studying the structure of a new book, Europe explained to children
- Collecting contacts in order to realize a trip in jewish Italy