

Overall Remarks AIR

I was invited at AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE for the two months of December 2019 and January 2020, appointed to the Stadtpark Gallery Krems. Frankly speaking, one would really have to search hard and be unfair towards the program to find negative things to point out. In general, everything (and everyone) is very professional, the studios/facilities and the grant are really generous and things that might be missing (e.g a wood/metal workshop) are easily arranged with the help of the AiR team if necessary. We were - all of us with no exception - very much respected, given the time, space and attention needed, responded positively to any request we had, equally treated, taken care off and welcomed. This of course reflects on the great working spirit during the period I spent here and to that I am deeply thankful.

To my Work

During the past two months I benefited from the opportunity to daily fully focus on my artistic praxis with no distractions (meaning here mainly work). I managed to develop further already existing ideas and started working on new ones as well. I took the appropriate time to approach things on a conceptual and on a practical level and I allowed myself experimentation with various media without always focusing in producing a final piece rather documenting my process in different formats.

More precise: I started the production of a new large scale sound installation/sculpture with working title "State of Emergency", 2020 (images attached). As the nature of the work involves collecting material - one of the main activities weekly - I estimate that I will still need some time till I am able to install and present the work complete. Nonetheless I worked around the technical parts and so did I on the sound qualities. Aside this, during the last week of the residency, I presented my „sketchbook“ of the last 6 weeks with ideas "in progress". This includes a series of scale models and collages (images attached) around the concept of the "House" following traces of my past works. This was as important as to work on a project with a more defined outcome as it allowed me a dialectic and critical discourse with my own work and process.

Summing up I definitely had time to produce, select, reflect and plan the next steps of my work which is a really vital contribution on my artistic path.

To the Cultural Program and Local Life during the Residency

During our stay in Krems there was plenty of cultural activities, of course the majority was exclusively planned for us though there were still things happening outside this framework too despite the fact that our period was supposed to be "low". Hereby a list with the major external activities:

- Stadtpark Galerie guided tour/opening: "THIS IS NOT LANDART. HAMISH FULTON" (+dinner)
- Kunsthalle Krems guided tour: Teresa Margolles „En la Herida“ - Adrian Paci „Lost Communities“
- Landesgalerie Niederösterreich guided tour: Franz Hauer - Selfmademan und Kunstsammler der Gegenwart, Carola Dertnig - Donauspuren, Sehnsuchtsräume, Berührte Natur und besetzte Landschaften, Michael Höpfner - Durchwanderte Kreisläufe
- Minoritenkirche Stein an der Donau - Klangraum Museum
- Susanne Wenger Foundation guided tour
- Wolfgang und Martha Denk private residence and atelier visit (+dinner)
- Popup Art Gallery, Adriana Affortunati and Gustavo Mendez Lisa
- Galeriekrems, Oliver Nutz: Ja (und Nein)
- Guided Tour at Ernst Krennek Institute
- Kunstsalon @ Kunsthalle Krems, Artist Talk with Adrian Paci / Book presentation for Teresa Margolles (+dinner)

Apart from the above mentioned events, I really enjoyed (and will definitely miss) the weekly local farmers market with the accompanied dinners, the - at all levels - exchange with some of the fellow residents, exploring the town of Krems and interacting with the locals in any attempt to search for materials, all short trips in the region of Niederösterreich (e.g Dürnstein, Mautern an der Donau, Wachau), Oberösterreich (Das Gesäuse) and Vienna.

In particular to my Studio (24), I will miss the very early morning views over Danube, every single sun rise with its incredible color palette and mist unveiling the great setting and filling me with great energy and motivation to work!



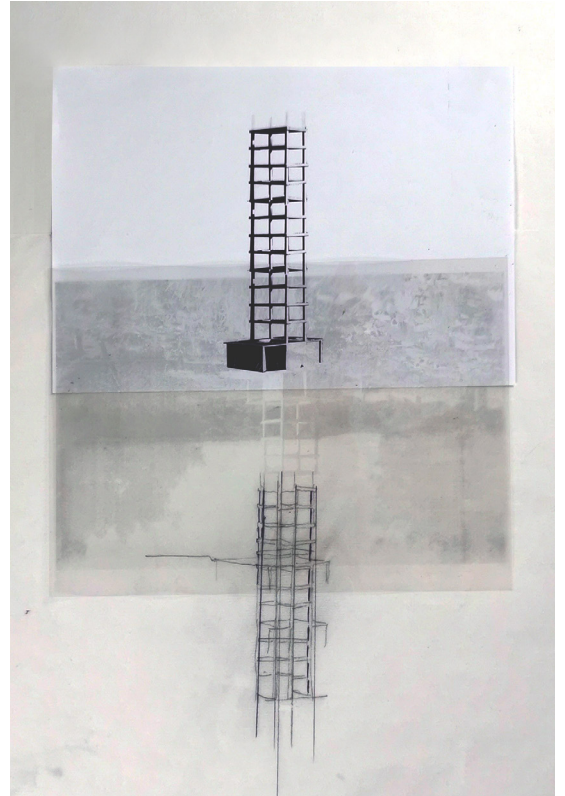
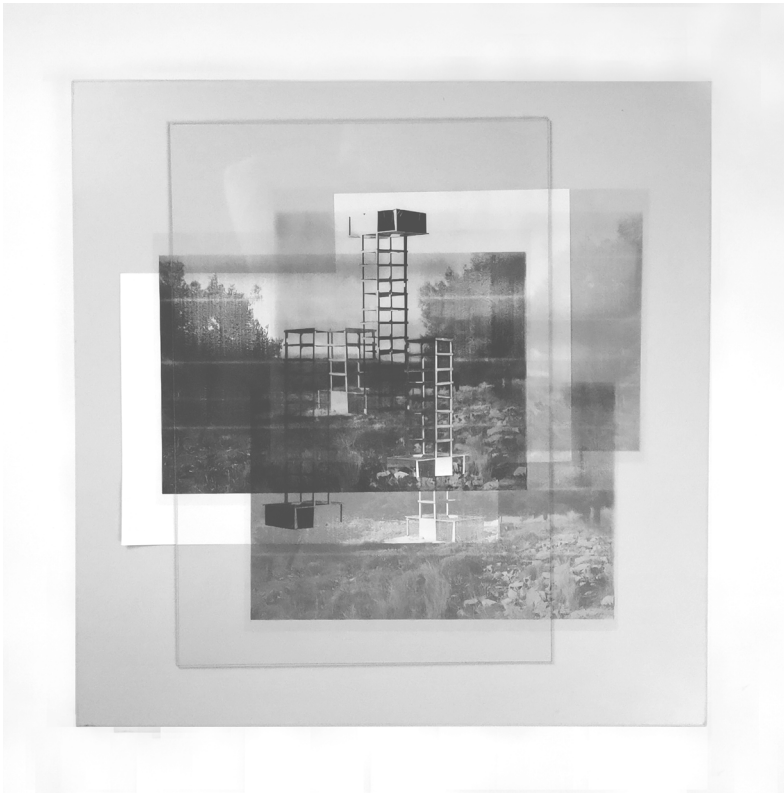
Finishing this report,

with all my respect, I would like once again to thank David Komary, for inviting me to the AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, for the inspiring discussions and the active reflection on my work, Sabine Güldenfuß and Johan Nane Simonsen for planning beautifully our time here, for being overly attentive with all my needs and for making our Studios feel truly home, Florian Steininger, Andreas Hoffer, Günther Oberholzer, and Paula Haslinger for the fruitful conversations during all our meetings and for warmly welcoming us to their “homes” (Kunsthalle Krems, Landesgalerie Niederösterreich, Minoritenkirche - Klangraum Museum). Last but definitely not least, Caroline and Ethan for sharing this wonderful journey, Jasmina, Adriana, Rafael, Madiha and all the people I met and exchanged with while here in Krems.

I wish I could come back, I already miss you all

My best,

Athanasios



Sketches, 2020



"State of Emergency", 2020