

Martin Dostál – October 2019

Report on the AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich program in Krems an der Donau

The second month of my two-month participation in the AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich program in Krems/Donau just happened to be October 2019. As a curator of contemporary art, I was naturally interested in the art scene and exhibition activities both in the provincial town of Krems and, of course, in nearby Vienna. I first visited Vienna prior to the Velvet Revolution, probably sometime in early 1989, and have been following the city's cultural life with varying degrees of interest since then. Similarly, I have had a long-term interest in the activities of the Kunsthalle Krems founded by Wolfgang Denk, and in recent years also the Stadtpark Galerie. And now, also in this year opened Landesgalerie, with his discutable building. However, my trips to Vienna and Krems were always day trips or short-term visits. Last year was my first longer (one-month) stay in Austria, and now the second.

And I was, as in last year, extremely satisfied. At the beginning of my stay in Krems was The Long Night of Museums. I visited the cloister Herzogenburg and attended a late-night tour. Apart from me there was one more visitor, so we were only three altogether with the guide strolling through the night cloister. Unforgettable experience. I also went to see the exhibition in the Forum Frohner, and around midnight I went to the Landesgalerie and to the Kunsthalle Krems. On a different day I also visited the monastery Lilienfeld and its annual exhibition. I also went to see major churches in Krems, interested mainly in baroque altar paintings. And I visited the outstanding local university campus, too.

I also engaged in important and stimulating discussions with David Komary, the curator and head of the Stadtpark Galerie in Krems. We talked on several occasions about the context of contemporary art, about the art scene and about meaning in art in Austria and the Czech Republic, about the openness of the Czech art scene, about current trends in art, about the positive and negative sides of the art industry, etc. We also talked about Czech artists whom David Komary finds interesting or has found interesting in relation to the gallery's residency or exhibition programs. I also attended the recent exhibition at the Stadtpark Galerie.

I also attended the press conference held on the occasion of the opening of two exhibitions in the Landesgalerie and the Forum Frohner. I went to the opening in the Landesgalerie, and also in the Forum Frohner. In Vienna, I attended the opening of the exhibition in IG Bildende Kunst - Veronika Hauer, Katie Lee.

If I were to list major museums and exhibition halls, I visited Mumok, where I was particularly intrigued by the exhibition called Vertigo. I went to see the exhibition Caravaggio & Bernini at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, I also visited the exhibition of Pierre Bonnard, called The Color of Memory, in the Kunstforum Wien. As a classical music lover, I had a chance to see two orchestral concerts: in the Konzerhaus it was the concert of Oslo Philharmonic with conductor Vasily Petrenko and pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and in the Musikverein it was the concert of the Wiener Symphoniker under the baton of Philippe Jordan – on the program of this concert was music of Johann Sebastian Bach, Arvo Pärt and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

I was absolutely delighted by my residency. It was wonderful to dive into the local art life, to have enough time to think and work, and last but not least to enjoy the beauty of Krems and its surroundings, including the Wachau valley. I also visited Grafenegg and its castle with the gardens. And I went to Tulln to see the house where Egon Schiele was born and his museum, too. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Krems, it was a unique experience.

Martin Dostál
Krems an der Donau
26 October 2019

List of concerts, exhibitions, events during my stay in Krems/Donau:

Friday, October 4

Closter Lilienfeld: tour of the monastery, exhibition of contemporary art

Sat., October 5

Krems/Donau, Lange Nacht der Museen:

Krems – Stein, Forum Frohner: exhibition

Kunsthalle, Dom. Kirche: exhibition

Krems/Donau, Kunsthalle: exhibition Ticket to the Moon
Land Art

Krems/Donau, Landesgalerie: exhibition Ich bin alles zugleich
Sehnsuchtsräume

Herzogenburg, closter: tour of the monastery

Sunday, October 6

Krems/Donau, Landesgalerie: exhibition Franz Hauer

Tuesday, October 8

Vienna, mumok: exhibition Vertigo

Vienna, ig bildende kunst: opening of the exhibition Veronika Hauer, Katie Lee

Wednesday, October 16

Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum: exhibition Caravaggio & Bernini

Vienna, Konzethaus: concert of Oslo Philharmonic – cond. Vasily Petrenko

Thursday, October 17

Vienna, Kunstforum: exhibition Pierre Bonnard: Die Farbe der Erinnerung

Vienna, Musikverein: concert - Wiener Symphoniker – cond. Philippe Jordan

Friday, October 18

Krems/Donau, Landesgalerie: pressconference and opening of the exhibitions Carola Dertnig and Michael Höpfner

Saturday, October 19

Krems/Stein, Forum Frohner: opening of the exhibition

Krems, artothek Niederösterreich: opening of the exhibition

Sunday, October 20

Tuln, Egon Schiele Museum: exhibition

Friday, October 25

Göttweig, monastery: tour of the monastery

Saturday, October 26

Mariazellbahn: from St. Pölten to Mariazell and back

Monday, October 28

St. Pölten, Fest/Spiel/Haus: concert of Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich – cond. Yutaka Sado

Tuesday, October 29

Krems/Donau, museumkrems: exhibiton

Wednesday, October 30

Krems, Galerie Stadtpark: exhibition Time Signatures