

Artist : Madiha Sebbani

Residency Periode : December 2019/January2020

Project and research:

The Masks and the Krampus inspiration of fear in Lower Austria.

The residency at AIR-Niederoesterreich Program

When I first Arrived to the AIR on the 10th of December I was so happy to be here finally due to the Long trip from Morocco to Austria, The First thing which caught me was the Studio 20 where I stayed for my residency, It is a big Studio which allows me organizing my work and getting more inspired and managing my own space.

It was a very interesting period of the year First because of the Christmas celebration time and the holiday season which for someone coming from a very busy country all the time, It was a big difference and challenging emotions, Krems is a very historical city which not only by its history even by the traditions of the Habitants, this was not noticed in the first days but only felt different. Since my inspiration for my project was the Krampus Festival / character I was very impressed hearing stories from some people about their own childhood experience with their Parents trying to scare them with Krampus Character in order to be more disciplined. By the time I noticed that I have Also a very similar story with an other character that my parents used to thrill me with maybe less sophisticated as Krampus is but it is very similar, Called Boujloud:

Here I found a picture of the Boujloud Festival in Sale/Morocco :



People wearing masks and special costumes participate in the Boujloud Festival in Sale, Morocco, on Sept. 28, 2019. The annual Boujloud Festival, also known as Moroccan Halloween, is a popular exotic rite that includes singing, dancing and masquerading. (Photo Credit by Chadi/Xinhua)

I am always interested by the differences of traditions related to the power of Leading by fear, having an Authority on someone or something, basing it on my personal experience, I can say that this Fear and thrill out of this character and other ingredients were helping a lot our leaders (Parents and school teachers) to Lead us in a way, and this grows with us and made us who we are now, but It is also a reason for my Art creation now in Krems.

Interaction with other Residents at AIR during my residency:

I was very happy and pleased to learn to know the other artist in residence during my stay in Krems, we had in the first weeks an interesting tradition that Jasmia Topic have organized first as I was informed before my arrival which was a Saturday Dinner where we gathered every Saturday at the Common Studio 25 and cook, then have some time talking about our different intentions, plans and Problems. However, I was a little bit more silent in the following weeks due to work and some up and downs of mental situations, I think all Artists has their dark sides where they hide , I rarely like to be committed to a certain plan that was not mine and therefore in some Saturday s I preferred being alone at my studio, working, thinking or just doing nothing.

The most confusing thing I experienced during my residency at AIR was That as beautiful the city is as dark it gets, It was a very self negotiation all the time between feeling dark and down and being excited and active, I have no idea how the others were feeling but I had to fight myself every time and remained my brain that this is a beautiful place to be.

Realizations and Project participation during the Residency Program:

The Cultural Programs at the the residency were all intresting Which I have participate to all of them, both guided tours in the first month and the 2nd one were very intresting and informative as well as inspiring, The Exhibition of Hamish Fulton at the Galerie Stadtpark was a very enjoyable evening, David was helping us understand the artist concept with a wonderful presentation deep and complex very detailed, This was impressive, Followed by their kind invitation to the Dinner in a typical Austrian Restaurant where everything was new for me as well part of the Region's culture.

At The Kunsthalle Andreas Hoffer has been so kind to show us a lot about their current exhibition which I liked so much and which brought an unbelievable energy and motivation to all of us. I Always Knew the work of Adrian Paci, however I was very happy that we had a contact and I finally could meet him at the Kunsthalle at the Artist Talk and this is a wonderful opportunity to exchange a dialogue of work.

The Visit of the Church at the Minoritenplatz by Paula Haslinger was a special one because it was the Last one before everyones holiday and space didn't leave me because of the fact that it gives me a feeling of doing something in there, such as a performance associated to my work.

Here I have attached two Group Pictures (1)(2) from The guided tour at the Kunsthalle With Andreas Hoffer the curator of the Museum, and one picture(3) with all the residents and Paula Haslinger at the Church back yard.



(1)



(2)



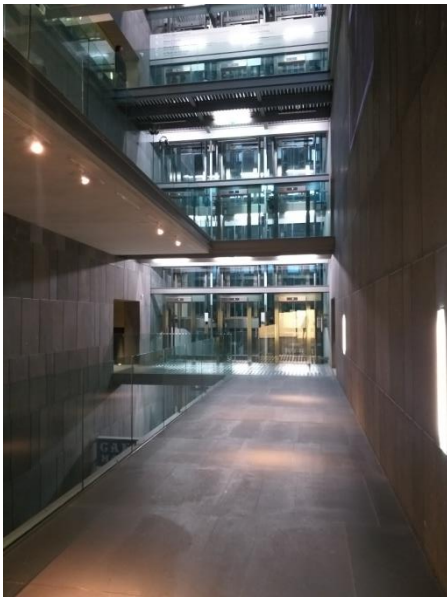
(3)

I am very thankful to all for both Cultural programs 1st and 2nd for the effort they have put together to make these connections taking place as well very supporting to our ideas and projects in site.

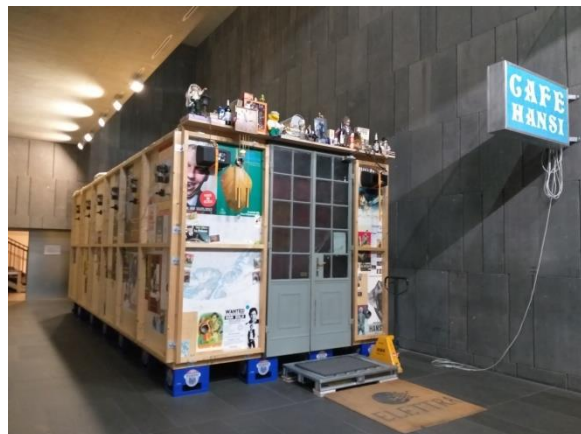
Vienna Museums Visits (Personal Trip)

During my Residency I also visited Vienna where I have been 3 times, First in order to buy art material in the 1st Month , and the following to visit some new exhibitions in the 2nd half.

I was very impressed by the MUMOK Museum which is itself first an interesting Building as well Their new Displays from Alfred Schmeller are amazing to see.



The MUMOK building from the outside and the inside, In Vienna, January 2020.



These Are the two main installations from Alfred Schmeller.

I Also have Visited a very interesting Museum which is not part of the Museum's Quartier, The Volkskunde Museum, It is a Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art is a museum dedicated to cultural history and historical and present everyday culture in Europe. As platform for the interaction of various academic disciplines and fields of arts, the museum provides an open space for researching and negotiating discourses in society.

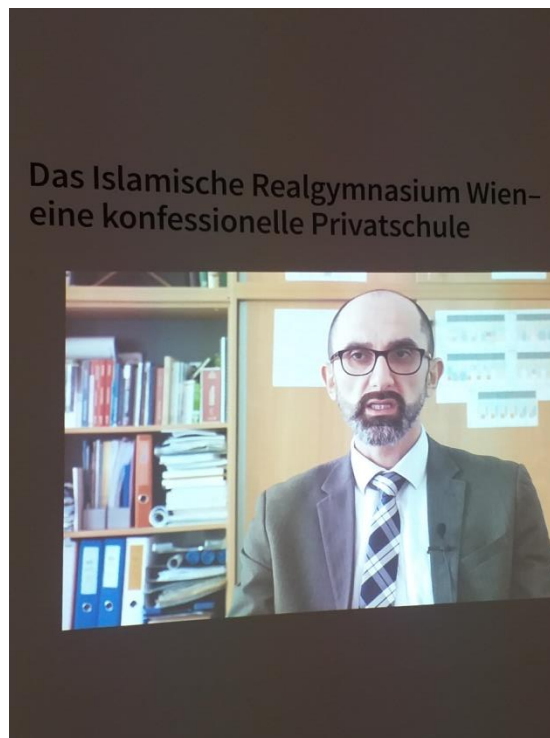
Where I have seen a very Interesting Exhibition of conferences in schools called :

Young Muslims in Vienna

by Georg Traska
and Valeria Heuberger

Questioning Being Muslim - what does all this mean for young Austrians? How do young Muslims and non-Muslims live together in daily school life? How is Islam practiced or not practiced? What role do religion and confession play in school? How do the elements of Islamic teaching affect different subjects?

This is an impression from the exhibition:



Work results and work in progress of my Project:

Social educational interaction:

One of my main interactions Socially is Also sharing some time in schools with children and work on a thematical workshop, I was happy that the Art education departement from the Kunstmeile helped me find a school in Krems which accepted my workshop of Masks, at the International School of Krems the Workshop Class took place on the 17th of January accompanied with EVA to whom I am very Thankful for her support.

The kids are very creative and interactive as well as speaking a very good English which was helping me also communicating with them.

The workshop was in total two hours with a break of one hour, the first part was to create a mask portrait adding horns on the top of it, and the second was more of working on someone else's portrait to swap identities.



The final picture at the International School with the kids and their teacher wearing different masks they have made.

Visual Work:

It was a great fortune that I could start somehow my work in Morocco before arriving to Austria since I was aware that my medium will be hard to make here, Metal work is very complicated and I always need an assistant to help, Therefore in Morocco I worked on some parts of my masks with Artisans in Fez. The copper work, However, I was working as well in My studio on Paintings, Drawing and I had one Day Photoshooting at the Danube, even It was a very tight time I have managed to have a multidisciplinary work.



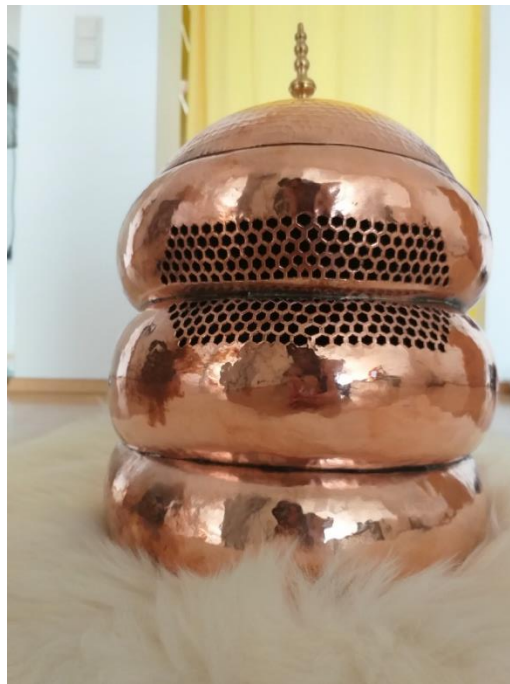
Photo credit: Madiha Sebbani /The Leader Mask, Photography, The Danube, Krems, 2020



The Leader Mask, At the Studio 20
Copper and Natural sheep skin



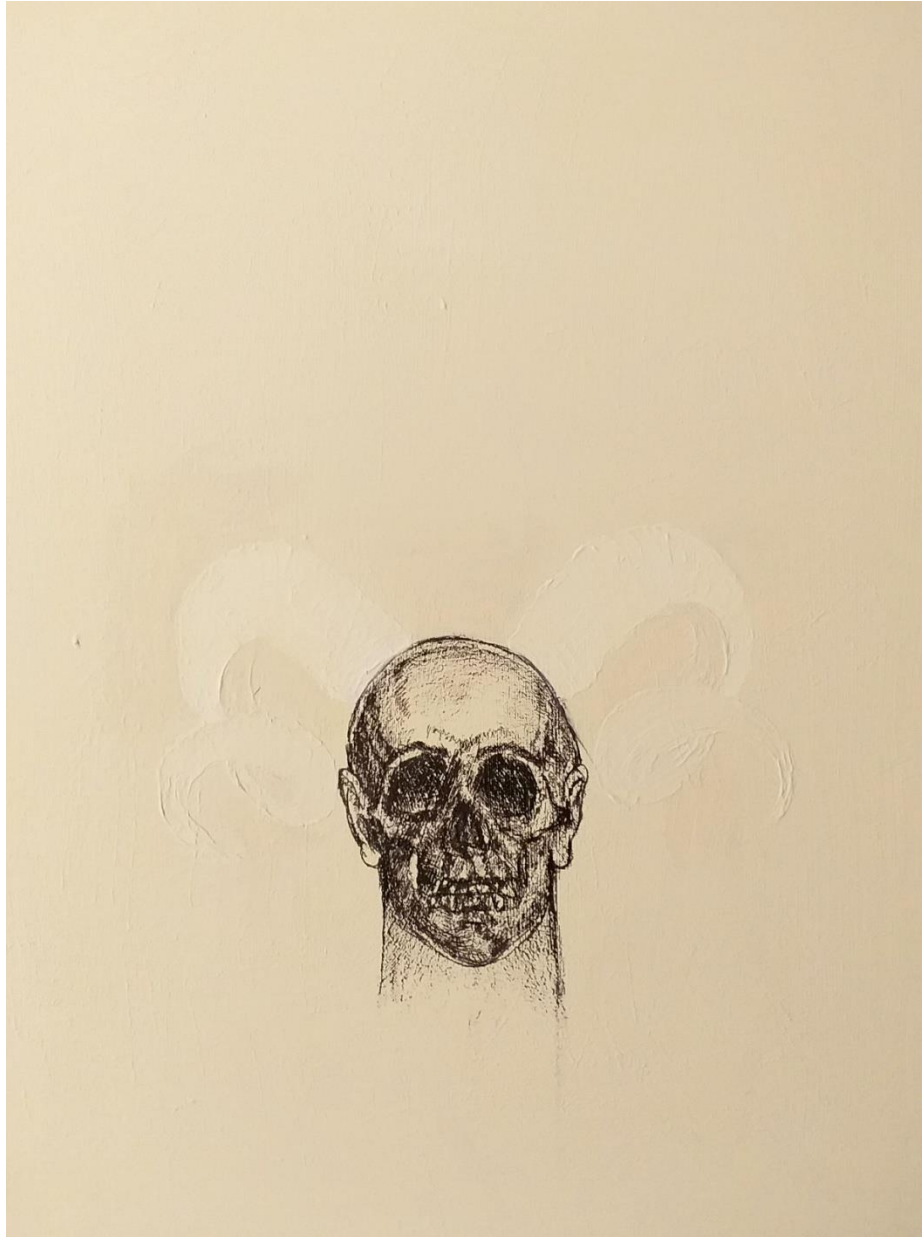
Photo Credit: Madiha Sebbani, The Mosk Mask, at the Danube, Krems, 2020



The Mosk Mask, Copper



Leader X-Ray, oil on Canvas, 70x90 cm



Leader's Anatomy, Mixed on Canvas, 70x90 cm



Disturbed Reception, Mixed on Canvas, 30x30cm



Brainship, Sheep skin on Canvas, 30x30 cm



Mask shadows, Acrylic on Paper, 60x90 cm



Untitled , Copper and sheep skin on Wood, Various Sizes.

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Thanks to the AIR- Artist in Residence in Lower Austria

After this Long presentation of my work I would like to say That I am very Thankfull and Gratefull to
All of : Sabine Guldenfuss, Andreas Hoffer, David Komary, Johan Nane Simonsen, Gunter
oberhollenzer, Paula Haslinger , All of the Art education departement as well as Susanne Wenger
Foundation.

If I may conclude my stay at the AIR was a special experience where I felt I grow and I get more
Mature Artisticaly and I hope that we will have more occasion to work together in the future.

My best Regards.

Madiha Sebbani