

After spending days thinking about distance

First of all, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Paula Haslinger and Johan Nane Simonsen for their responsibilities and politeness under the coronavirus emergency situation.

The residency turned to a very unusual situation. Akio and I genuinely spent one week to prepare for Osterfestival Imago Dei. The second week became isolated and we were required a calm response to the ever-changing situation. We spent the half of March at home in quarantine instead of having a productive time in Krems. I would like to report our artistic activity in preparation for the project of the Osterfestival Imago Dei.

Performance “Colors”

We are very grateful to discuss the procedure for the projects with the technical team of Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, although we missed the chance to realize all the projects. For two weeks in Krems, both I and Akio spent our days of creation and meditation. I planned a drawing performance, and was given a black paint and paint brushes to test. I everyday made a new drawings and still keep making this series of drawings at home in Japan. I am excited it. This is a gift from Krems.



A pile of papers of drawings



A part of Hiromi's drawing

Sound Installation “Path of Light”

Akio was supposed to work on other two projects, a sound installation, and “o to da te” public art project. He has made people to imagine sound by his sound installation. He also planned to do so through “Path of Light”. Akio was inspired by the manholes which show the double-headed eagle. Manholes are often very site-specific products. He took many pictures for a new installation. Hiromi connected all those photos and edited a 10-minute video.



Excerpts from the video “Path of Light”

Sound Exploration “o to da te”

“o to da te” is a series of signature works by Akio Suzuki that has been performed in over 30 cities around the world since 1996. Symbols that combine feet and ears are placed at various echo points in public spaces, and participants are invited to awaken their “listening mind”. Akio found “o to da te” spots along the Kunstmeile Krems. During the residency, he wrote the text and draw the map. We shared the video and the draft of “o to da te” map with Paula Haslinger and Jo Aichinger. We are looking forward to showing them next year.



Akio explores “o to da te” spots.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

AIR Niederösterreich provided us a clean and good living condition. I took an advantage by borrowing some equipments to experiment new ideas. We always enjoyed watching the birds flying above the small hill of vineyards. We could see the exhibition at the museum before everything should close. Unfortunately, due to the measure that people should stay at home, all the staff of the AIR returned home in Vienna, and we had to spend last few days by ourselves. We felt sorry for Johan who called us from distance everyday to make sure that we live safely. Even in the emergency situation, the people in Krems were very modest. We were able to spend our last days in a calm way and became more respectful of Austrian culture. We appreciated all the generous support from AIR Niederösterreich.



After returning to Japan on March 19, the coronavirus had a further impact on the whole world. Every day, a huge number of infected people are reported, and experts predict what will happen in the coming weeks. We began to seriously consider the physical distance between people. At the same time, we are beginning to know that we can keep our minds at a normal distance.

March 2020



Thinking about social distance with friends