

BENEDEK REGŐS
2021 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

PROJECT REPORT

Last year, when I was selected to participate in the AIR Niederösterreich program, I was very happy to get this two-month-long opportunity that let me focus on my work. When I arrived to Krems in the beginning of August, I immediately experienced that I will have really ideal conditions for the artistic work there. The studios are well-lighted, well-arranged and spacious. Besides this ideal atmosphere there is also the opportunity of social life with the other residents, which I appreciated. Sometimes on summer evenings we sat out on the terrace of the common studio to chat and taste local wines, and we could also experience the hospitality of nearby heurigers several times. I took trips by foot or by bike to Spitz, Stift Gottweig, Melk, Schloss Grafenegg, Langenlois, Seekopf mountain, or to the nearby Donauwarte. I also participated excursions organized by other residents to Stift Altenburg and to Museum Gugging.

I really like the cultural and historical density of Krems, where within a few kilometers I found a Kunsthalle, a prison, a modern university campus, a state gallery, super heurigers, and two historic downtowns. This diversity makes the town special and a source of inspiration.

During the residency period I could continue my photography-based project 'Angle and Distance' in which I try to emphasize the parallel motifs between maps, map making and photography. In this project I focus on tools, working methods, and the human behind of these practices, and I try to find how and why they correlate with each other and with reality. My starting point is the desire to explore, measure and record the earth and the land, using optical devices as helping tool and the will to integrate the otherwise hardly organizable land into different geometric (and geographic) reference systems. In Krems I tried to find subjects that could fit into my artistic approach by walking on the streets and through the countryside looking for different visual motifs. I have photographed a number of signs – mostly incomprehensible to us – sprayed on asphalt that are used by surveyors and construction workers for various markings. These signs remind me of the signs on the maps, which, if we want to decipher, need to know their meaning. I made a wooden model based on a technical drawing from a book about how to draw maps and I also did an experiment on how to construct three dimensional objects by flat prints. With the help of Johan from the AIR team, I also got a contact to a land surveyor, Josef Schwarz, who I could photograph during a survey of a residential house in Vienna. It was a great experience to get to know the process as they work and what special instruments they use.

Before the residency I was invited by the curator, David Komary to exhibit in IG Bildende Kunst with Ines Hochgerner in the frames of the cooperation of AIR-Niederösterreich and IG Bildende Kunst. The opening of the exhibition had been timed to the end of the residency. The preparation of the exhibition was a very positive and fruitful process. We talked and thought a lot about the content of the exhibition together with Ines, whose studio I was able to visit as well. Finally, I exhibited some prints from my ongoing series 'Angle and Distance' that worked very well with Ines's installation titled 'There are so many horizons'. In my installation I tried to adapt the architecture of the space, and also integrate the stairs, that are flowing into it. Thus came the idea of an image-line following the turns of the wall, resulting some prints bended, which also refers to the operation of the laser level. The only exception to the line is an image of a sculpture titled "Woman Holding the Globe", I placed at the top of the stairs. An integral part of the installation is the grid painted

on the window, which refers to an aid often used by painters to depict the subject. Thus, when viewed from the inside out through the window, the street also becomes part of the exhibition, and vice versa, when viewed from the street inwards, the exhibition view gets a grid system.

I am very thankful to the whole AIR team for their friendly and productive support during my fruitful stay in Krems. I hope it will be continued by further collaborations and I can return to this town in the near future.

During my stay I visited the following institutions and shows:

Museum of Krems / *Wo sind sie geblieben? – Die Frauen von Krems*

Landesgalerie Niederösterreich

Kunsthalle Krems / *Patricia Piccinii: Embracing the Future, Christian Helwing: (B)EAST!*

Galerie Stadtpark / *Paolo Icaro: Idem Est*

Forum Frohner

Klangraum Krems

Schloss + Park Grafenegg

Stift Altenburg

Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien

Susanna Fritscher's installation in Theseustempel, Wien

Globenmuseum, Wien

Stift Göttweig

Egon Schiele Museum, Tulln

Museum Gugging

Ausstellungshaus Spoerri, Hadersdorf am Kamp

Loisium, Langenlois

Studio of Adriana Affortunati in Krems

Haus Wien 2021 exhibition, Wien

Viennacontemporary art fair, Wien

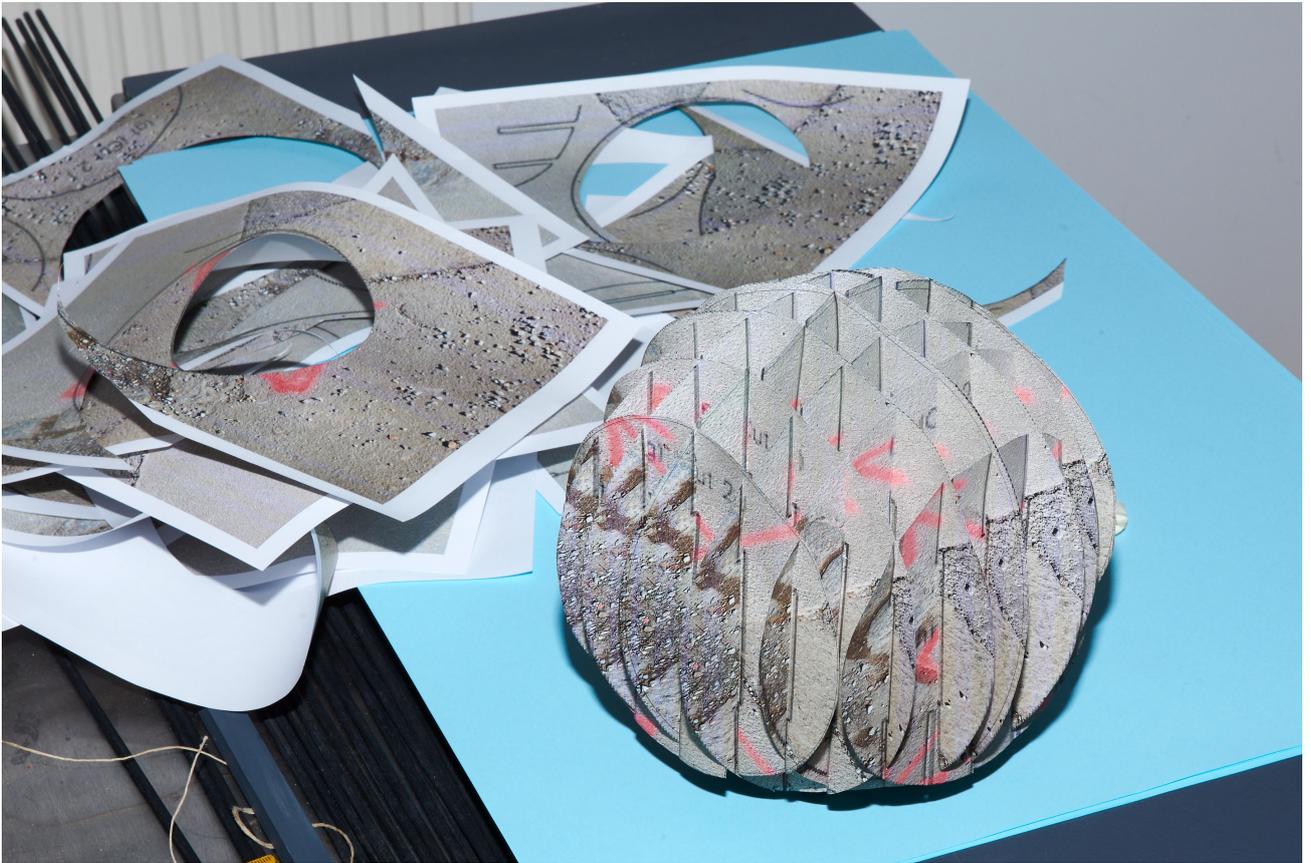
Stift Melk

Parallel Vienna art fair, Wien

and several outdoor artworks including Olafur Eliasson's camera obscura on the ferry boat at Spitz and the „Die vierte Wand“ lookout tower of Eldine Heep and Klemens Schillinger on Seekopf.



The AIR group in Stift Altenburg, August 2021



Experiments with creating three dimensional objects by prints in the studio, Krems



'ANGLE AND DISTANCE' (images from the series) - Installation view at LINKED - Exhibition of Ines Hochgerner and Benedek Regős at IG Bildende Kunst, Vienna