

SASKIA RODRIGUEZ

REPORT - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021  
AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE  
Niederösterreich

- **How was the residency?**

This time in Krems it's been great for me to focus in my work as well as enjoying the countryside. It has gave me the time I needed to think about what my intentions are regarding my artwork for once without worrying to much about any other inconveniences.

- **Advantages and disadvantages of the program.**

The greatest advantage of the program is the rare opportunity to have a work and living space while you also receive monetary support. Having the time but not the pressure to work in your projects while you get to share time with the other artists in such an inspiring place it is a unique experience. I don't really see any disadvantage about the program.



- **What did you realize during the residence period?**

Finding myself out of comfort zone has pushed me, in a way, to approach my artwork from a different perspective which I am really grateful for. So this time has been very relevant for future projects as I had the time to think over my work and consider other possibilities within my practice.

- **What did you miss at the residency?**

Having cutting mats for paper.

- **What did you appreciate at AIR Niederösterreich?**

What I appreciate the most about the program is the opportunity to share and get to know the rest of the artists. Coming from various backgrounds and developing different kind of projects give us a wider perspective and open-minded vision of the art scene.

- **Add all data about the projects which you realized during the residence.**

During my period in Krems, I have been working in a personal project named "If you get lost, find your way to the sea", that will be shown in Gran Canaria after my return. I've also had time to think in future projects although I did not have time to develop them. However, I very much appreciate having the time to start thinking about them.



## About the project developed

When I was a child my father used to tell me that in case I got lost, I should find my way to the sea. As we lived on an island, in a way there was no place to go, therefore no possibility of getting lost. On an island, you will always be found or find your own way. As if the sea were the solution to all our problems, we also go there when we need to think something over. Even when we have a physical wound, we truly believe that sea salt is the best medicine, that it will heal everything. No one has ever proved otherwise.

Many people may feel trapped on an island, that they don't have anywhere to go "to escape". As an islander, born and raised on an island, the fact that you look at the horizon and you can see the sea, gives you some kind of relief and peace, as you feel that's where you have to go (in case you are lost).

Being out of my comfort zone has pushed me to think about my origins, where I am coming from, and what I am looking for. Deep questions without a certain answer but a need for understanding. This reminded me of the poem of John Donne and the well-known quote "no man is an island", meaning that islands don't float in the sea, they are actually portions of land that inevitably arise linked to the earth, to a whole. And in the same way, humanity is connected. Like it or not, no person is an island (no one is totally isolated), because not even the islands are.

**If you get lost, find your way to the sea**, is a body of work based on the idea of returning to origins. Working from a feeling of free-floating attention and unconscious flow when drawing, without a notion of time but with a strong relation with the surface and the materials used. As an island, everything is connected to the moment and the feeling of emergence, therefore it belongs to a whole.



# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

### Exhibitions visited in Vienna

- KUNST HAUS WIEN. Susan Meiselas
- Albertina. American photography. / Modigliani / Monet to Picasso, the Batliner collection.
- Albertina Modern. The 80s. Art of the eighties.
- Kunsthalle Wien. Do nothing, feel everything.

### 16/ November/ 2021

Sound performance by Simon Whetham

### 9/November/21

Get-together. ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

### 04/November/2021

Lichtfest opening, Krems

## OCTOBER

### 22/October/2021

Visit Ausstellungshaus Spoerri, Hadersdorf

### 22/October/2021

Opening Kunsthalle Krems. "Margot Pilz. Selbstauserin" curated by Andreas Hoffer

### 12/October/21

Get-together. ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

### 8-10/October/2021

Donaufestival. Krems

### 8/October/2021

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich twentieth anniversary

### 3/October/2021

EXHIBITION: UN-BUILDINGS. ERIK SMITH, Galerie Stadtpark

