

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich Report – Stephanie Wunderlich, March 2021

When I came to Krems I was not only looking forward to having the gift of time to reflect and work on my own personal projects. I was as well yearning for the possibilities to explore the beautiful landscape and the cultural richness of the area after a long winter spent in Corona lockdown. The AIR program offered me a wonderful and unique place to work, a very comfortable spacious apartment/studio and a generous artists grant.

I could have a break from my commercial work as illustrator, from being a mother and wife and fully focus on my personal artistic work with no distractions.

As artist and illustrator I carry around ideas in my head and mostly, there is a lack of time to explore them further in a way I would want to. I have to squeeze in the personal work and often don't manage to get fully in the flow of following up my self initiated projects.

During my stay here I was working on different projects. I managed to create a series of paper cut artworks. Good to be surrounded by so many table surfaces to lay out work in progress. I usually work on several artworks parallel and like to move the elements around until the compositions seems right.

Other than that I sketched out the complex storyline for my narrative for the next Spring Magazine issue about Freedom. I am co editor of this comic anthology that is published once a year. It was easy to relate to the topic of freedom at my stay here. The surroundings of the town are amazingly beautiful and very inspiring. I would sometimes walk around the hills for hours in the morning before sitting at my desk.

In November this year I am invited to take part at the exhibition „Christine Nöstlinger und ihre Buchstabenfabrik“ at the Karikatur Museum Krems. I made some research on Nöstlinger oeuvre as author and sketched out ideas that I will follow up later.

I am honoured that some of my work will be shown at „Nextcomic festival“ in Linz and that I was asked to contribute the festival poster for this years topic next family. On Friday March 19 I was invited to participate as speaker at a talk at the online comicsymposium organized by the Kunstuniversität Linz under the artistic direction of Barbara Eggert. The festival exhibition itself was supposed to be held in March as well, but was postponed to April for pandemic reasons. Therefore unfortunately I will not able to attend the opening myself.

Thanks to Beate Artweger by the Kunsthalle Krems Kunstvermittlung department I have been leading the Family Factory workshop Saturday 20 of March.

A great advantage of the program is also meeting with colleagues from other countries and other artistic disciplines. Despite the pandemic we were able to spend some time together drinking wine on one of the roof terraces. On Wednesday 24 we had an amazing get together at Ernst Krenek Forum where the Passepartout Duo with pianist Nicoletta Favari and percussionist Christopher Salvito played a concert for us followed by a sound walk through Stein composed by Andrea Guterres.

I enjoyed discovering many of the Lower Austria art institutions: I visited the neighbouring Kunsthalle Krems, the Landesgalerie Niederösterreich, the Karikaturmuseum, as well as the Forum Frohner. On a two days visit to Vienna I went to the Museum of Natural History and the Collection Leopold in the Museumsquartier.

With all my respect, I would like to thank Gottfried Gusenbauer, for inviting me to the AIR – Artist in Residence and for the inspiring guided tour through the Karikatur Museum, Martina Hackel and Johan Nane Simonsen for being so attentive with all our needs and for making us feel really welcome. I appreciate very much the support of the team working on the Air program.



You also asked for disadvantages - didn't find any and I found myself perfectly happy.

View in the studio



Sound walk in Stein organized and composed by Andrea Guterres



View to the ruin of Dürnstein castle and Danube

