

Residency Report

I was delighted to arrive in Krems on the 2nd of December after a year long wait since I got word that my application for the residency was successful. The residency provided me with an apartment which had ample space for living and working, my husband Michael also stayed in the apartment for the duration of the residency. I had a beautiful view over the Danube river and it was conveniently located for access to all amenities and especially the art galleries. I was also provided with a stipend of €1300.00 which I was delighted to receive and used it to buy what ever I needed in Krems and surrounding areas.

As soon as I arrived I was greeted by Klaus Krobath and Lisa Saahs, They were very welcoming and were available when ever I needed anything, also making sure I knew about all exhibition openings and events. They arranged a lovely informal get together with the other artists in residence and the people involved with the programme. We all introduced ourselves and asked questions to get to know one another and get some understanding about each other's practices and where we came from. Klaus asked if I would like to cook a traditional Irish stew for the event and I was delighted to do so. Klaus and Lisa did all the shopping and arranging, getting the finest ingredients and the Irish stew went down very well! It was a fantastic event and made everyone feel at home. Lisa arranged a visit to a vineyard for all the artists in residence. We spent a few hours picking the last of the seasons grapes for sweet wine on a local vineyard and we then went to visit the winery and cellars for some delicious food, a guided tour by the owner and a gift of wine as a thank you. This was a great experience and gave me an understanding of the wine industry here in Krems and Austrian culture. Lisa also informed us about local markets and food producers, she dropped off some delicious local milk and yogurt one morning for breakfast!

My aims for the residency was to explore the city of Krems and document the buildings and spaces using photography. My art work is mostly informed by the built environment and the images I took in Krems added a another rich source of information for future art work. While there I produced a body of work for an exhibition I was offered as part of my residency. The exhibition will be on show from the 1st December until 15th of January 2023 at the Stadtmuseum, St. Pölten as part of the Cultural Awards of the State of Lower Austria 2022.

I enjoyed walking the city most days, discovering some thing new at every turn. It was interesting to see how historical and new structures are combined and designed to be used for commercial and private living.

My overall experience in Krems was fantastic, and I feel very privileged to have been selected for the residency. I have no doubt that this experience has had a very positive effect on me and my art work.

Betty Gannon
Residency Report 2022