

**Report: Kateryna Berlova**

**AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, March & April 2022**

I'm grateful to AIR Niederösterreich for the opportunity and the support in dealing with the situation I've found myself in. Perhaps if it wasn't for the war it would have never found out about such a beautiful place as Krems. Unfortunately my situation of being a war refugee hasn't allowed me to fully concentrate on my artistic practice and immerse myself entirely into the local context. Now that I don't have a home anymore, a place where I could safely return to, I couldn't help but try and figure out what my near future would look like. There is a war in my country and I can't find the right words to talk about it, yet I cannot ignore that that is what is happening and what is happening is paralyzing me. How can I continue doing what I am doing after what happened in Bucha, Irpin, Kharkiv, Mariupol? What does art now even mean? I feel ashamed when I feel happy, I feel ashamed when I'm safely walking down peaceful streets and I feel ashamed for my paining. AIR Niederösterreich granted me the time to consider this new reality I find myself in, my position in it, and allowed myself the time to decide on the course further actions that I need to take. In this state of feeling lost I have decided to dedicate myself entirely to my regular practices and stick to painting as something that has always helped me to find new ways of seeing.

