

How was the residency at AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE NÖ Program?

I really appreciate for the opportunity to join the residence and keep working for my writing here between the amazing nature, powerful river, mesmerizing city. It was an honor to meet other artists here, understand better our creative path, share experience, ideas and support each other.

First week was tough for me because I wanted to write but, on the other hand, I wanted to enjoy the city and explore it more. In the second week I got more and more inspiration and I could devote my time to the fairy tale “Fly To Hollywood”. I did both, could enjoy the city, swimming pool, cafes, conversation with local people and I could write and develop the plot of my tale.

Most of all I liked rain here, it inspired me a lot and I could be more productive during the rain.

Besides, I kept learning German here and I tried to practice it outside.

What did you realize during the residency?

I was going to write a novel about refugee here, but I realized that I wasn't ready and I wanted to focus on something lighter and kinder, I didn't want to write about the war again. (my first and second books were about the refugees from Luhansk). So I decided to finish manuscripts that I started before the war. “Fly To Hollywood” is one of the kind for me because it's about the Dream that chose a heart and changed the life of its owner. I wish people could be focused on achieving their goals. The Dream will always show the owner that goal that will make the world better place, change surroundings for the better, give hope, light and love. I wish we can live in the world where kids won't know about the war. I wish all kids had their Dream in their heart. That dream that will make them better person and make everything around better. People who are killing now Ukrainians also used to be kids. So I don't know how they could miss something so important in their childhood that they can live now without their souls, without pure dreams, without great kind goals... If you don't have pure dream, evil can start living in your heart. I hope my tale will prevent it.

What did you miss at the residency?

I had everything and I am appreciated for the opportunity to focus on my writing. I love being alone and I could do it here as long as I wanted. On the other hand, whenever I wanted to socialize, I could find amazing people around me here. I am very happy to meet Breda from Ireland who told me a lot about her path, we enjoyed together swimming in vibrant Donau. I am very happy to meet Tom and Holly from the USA and spoke about politics, democracy and current issues of the States now. They also shown their creative work and it's brilliant. Nicola and Dominic are also amazing artists and I can't agree more, we become here a family with that guys. So I don't know that I was missing here. Maybe one things disturbed me a lot, it was sirens that was turned on from time to time. I always reminded me about Ukraine and I was scared when I heart it.

What do you appreciate at AIR

As I mention before I appreciate for the time and place where I could keep being myself. I could keep writing, could listen to my soul, could get to know better Austria. I am grateful for possibility being alone and at the same time being in the surroundings of amazing people.

1. "Fly To Hollywood" a fairy tale about the Dream and the Bird who lived in the gold cage. I was able to focus on writing, edited what I had written before, developed the plot and characters. 14.07. – 23.08
2. "A tale about water: how Bull the Hedgehog learned to turn off the tap". Short Fairy Tale that learns kind save water. <https://nochdobra.com/uk/kazka-pro-vodu-yak-zhachok-bul-navchivsyia-zakrivati-kran/> 17.07
3. Presentation of the "Pete The Optimistic Poop" to the artists. 14.08