

**How was your residency at AIR- ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederosterreich program?
Please note the advantages and disadvantages of the program.**

My residency at AIR is the first International residency that I am a part of. It is also the first time for me in Europe by myself. I was elated by the opportunity and before coming here did not really bother looking up the place/studio and the town where it is placed. My approach was to just experience first hand and see how this residency molds me and also my work. I was warmly welcomed by my curator David Komary and further extended by Klaus Krobath and Lisa Saahs. In these two months I made friends, discovered a completely new culture, lived by myself for the first time and made work. There were a lot of chance encounters and experiences along with some planned ones. I will go back to India with a full heart.

Advantages:-

- The placement of the AIR building at the center of the town of Krems makes it well connected and not isolated.
- Beautiful studio apartments to be able to peacefully make work along with the breathtaking landscape around us.
- Krems being full of galleries, museums, cinema and a dynamic landscape creates opportunities to discover new things on a daily basis.
- Contact with a gallery, in my context Gallery Stadtpark and David Komary. He has given nuanced and intricate care/attention to my work and my position as an artist, which has led to him creating opportunities accordingly for me. (A show at Kunstraumarcade was planned by him beforehand which led to networking and growing deeper as an artist here in a foreign land).
- Closeness to Vienna made space for further opportunities.

Disadvantages:-

- I found orientation missing which was needed in the initial few days of coming here, though there was a detailed file with information left in the studio for our aid.
- Interdisciplinary aspect of the residency could have been explored further to create a more close knit bond between the residents.
- Networking opportunities according to the specific style of each artist's work can be exploited to enforce the motive of a cultural exchange between the local art scene/artists and the AIR program residents.

What did you realize during your residency period?

I created small scale paintings which is a part of my long term project started in India. I was definitely inspired by what I saw in Krems and some of it translated in my works. I was consistently working on them and the AIR program gave me the space to focus on my work and think deeper. I also read while working.

Also a show with Helga Cmelka curated by David Komary was realised at Kunstraumarcade. We set up the work and I was part of the opening which helped me meet different people from all walks of life.

(Pictures are shared below)

What did you miss at the residency?

Indian food! My body and temperament are quite connected to my roots and I was missing the home cooked food. Also missed the sun sometimes as I come from a tropical city.

What do you appreciate about the AIR- ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederosterreich program?

Firstly, I appreciate the democratic way in which the selection process was conducted, giving me the massive opportunity to be a resident at the AIR program. I acknowledge the doors that an experience as unique as the program has opened for me. The chance to meet artists from music, literature, architecture has given me a view of the world. I presented myself as an artist and it gave me immense pleasure to hold that position. I represented my culture and I believe I am the first one to be here from India so I was happy to be the face of it. And, lastly I appreciate all the people I met here who impacted me in some way.

List all the projects, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, events etc. that you realized or participated in during your residency. Please add all data (title, date, time, place).

Ephemerally Tangible; Vasudha Kapadia with Helga Cmelka curated by David Komary at Kunstraumarcade.

07/10/2022 to 29/10/2022 at Kunstraumarcade, Modling

Portrait with materials; a module taken in the Family Factory at Kunstmeile in the AIR building
15/10/2022

Class conducted with children at the International School, Krems
19/10/2022, ISK Junior High School at Gottweig Abbey, Krems