

AIR Niederösterreich - Report of Casey Moir

I enjoyed my stay at this residency. Krems is a beautiful town close to the Danube that offers lovely walks and views, as well as museums and exhibitions. I had time to both focus on work and to take time out to ponder, reflect and to also relax.

Advantages

- Free entry to museums, cinema, exhibitions etc. was a definite advantage. It gave accessibility to things to do in the local area and also creative inspiration.
- Having a whole apartment to yourself with workspace including equipment, such as speakers, a mixer board, microphones, stands, a piano etc. to use throughout the stay was conducive to a productive work time. It is also advantageous that the apartment is equipped with most things one needs for a 2-month stay, such as washing machine, dishwasher, pots and pans etc. which made living short-term here comfortable.
- Living next door to several other artists who are fellow artists in residence was great. It made it very easy to go ring someone's doorbell and strike up a conversation, be social and not feel isolated, organize collective outings, and to share and talk about our artistic practices and exchange ideas etc. I really appreciated this.
- Krems is only a short train ride away from Vienna where there are concerts and other museums and so forth to experience. The trains run often and late into the night so it was very easy to do day trips.

Disadvantages

- Krems is not really a happening music/concert town. To experience concerts and musical events I travelled to Vienna regularly.
- All the windows in the music apartment face the prison which is a shame, but it is what it is and there isn't really anything to be done about this. But, so as to not look straight into the prison and at the cells I attached some A4 sheets of paper on the lower parts of the windows in the work room. This way I only saw the roof of the prison and the vineyards and terraces beyond while sitting and working at my computer which made working a little more comfortable.
- Krems is a bit of a ghost town in February when the weather is colder and greyer. It took a while to realise that people actually lived in Krems as I never saw anyone about until the sun came out. If it had not been for the other residents, I would have felt rather alone.
- Krems is not really a coffee-town and it was hard to find a good cup of coffee.

What I worked on

During the residency I was mainly working on an all-new piece for my vocal ensemble. It is called AIR and is one of 4 compositions that will make up the composition series ELEMENTS. I have had time to research the element 'air' and find interesting angles and aspects which have guided the artistic direction of the piece. I've had equipment and a space in which to realise this. I have been able to make sounds (without disturbing my neighbours), record, listen back, and have had time to step back from the piece on occasion to reflect. I have been able to complete the framework and most of the content of the piece while I have been on my residency. I still have some small adjustments to make and the final score to notate but from initial idea it has grown into a piece and I now have an audio draft in which to work with/from. I really look forward to premiering it in Sweden in November.

I have also had time to start pondering new ideas for future pieces. I was able to get into the Minoritetenkirche for a few hours to test out some sounds and make some recordings (video and audio). I now have some ideas for a new solo work for voice that are still slowly processing. I visited the Dominikanerkirche and had some time there to also check out the acoustics and have a sing in the lovely reverberant acoustics. I've been working with my solo set-up with effect pedals to further explore my newest addition - the Red Panda delay pedal - learning more about what it is capable of doing and how I can use it musically. I've also had time to re-connect with musician friends in Vienna that I haven't otherwise seen in quite some time (due to the pandemic amongst other things). This has led to some interesting conversations and sessions that have inspired me in my work.

I also held a private concert for my fellow artists in residence in my apartment on Friday, March 24th in which I presented my solo piece Fluctuations (for voice and effects pedals) and a short improvisation.

What do you appreciate at AIR Niederösterreich?

Niederösterreich really has many great walks, wineries, landscapes, views, and interesting places to visit in the nearby area. It's great that the AIR apartments are located so centrally. So much is either in walking or cycling distance from the apartments. Having proximity to walking trails along the river or up into the terraces, the sauna at the pool (which I visited weekly), the museums, the Klangraum, grocery stores, shopping and amenities etc. made it very easy to find what was needed, explore, and enjoy. I particularly enjoyed my trips to Dürnstein hiking along the Vogelbergstieg and exploring the ruin. Having access to bikes to borrow also made short trips into the surrounding area much easier and accessible.

I really appreciated having my own space in which to live and work but with easy access to collective spaces (Top 25). It was good to have both Lisa and Klaus in the office ready to answer questions, give tips about happenings, things to see, where to buy things etc. and who were also happy to hang out over a drink or a meal and do some outings together with us on occasion. I felt welcome and knew who I could turn to. It was also nice that the organised meetups they arranged to meet and greet the other residents, were different each month (in February we all went to the Susanne Wanger Museum together and in March we hiked up to Schrawzalm for a meal).

Some general observations and suggestions for the future

- I really missed having a couch. There is no couch in the music apartment at all, only an armchair. This meant relaxing in the evenings was not always very comfortable.
- I missed having sharp knives. The knives in the apartments are very blunt and really need a sharpen. It was very hard to use blunt knives for all your cooking for 2-months.
- The frypan is one size too big for the hot plate. This means cooking can be a little difficult when you also need a pot on the hotplate at the same time. It's just a small observation but maybe something to keep in mind when it's time to buy new ones. A size 24cm would be much better than the 28cm pans, and this small difference would make cooking a little easier 😊
- I noticed that when residents leave, they put all their uneaten food into the fridge and pantry in the common room (top 25). It's just a thought but maybe you could

have a little box somewhere in the common room where dry food (such as cooking oils, spices, rice, pasta, coffee/tea etc.) could be put with a sign on it saying that it's free for the next residents to use. I think it would be a nice gesture to the new residents so they can see if there is anything there that they can take before going to the shops to buy themselves. I didn't know if I could use/take anything from the common room when I came. I arrived after office hours on a Thursday with no-one around to ask. The box would mean less food goes to waste 😊

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

“Șàngódáre: Batikkunst im Dialog mit Susanne Wenger”, exhibition, 8/2-2023, 14:00, Susanne Wenger Foundation

“The Banshees of Inisherin”, film, February (don't remember the date), Kino im Kesselhaus, Krems

“The New African Portraiture. Shariat Collections”, exhibition, 12/2-2023, 13:00, Kunsthalle Krems

“Zu Gast bei Ernst Krenek (1900-1991)”, exhibition, 12/3-2023, 16:00, Salon Krenek, Krems

“Der Blöde Dritte Mittwoch”, experimental music monthly concert series, 15/2-2023, 19:00, Ateliertheatre, Vienna

“Babylon. Rush of Ecstasy”, film, 18/2-2023, 20:15, Kino im Kesselhaus, Krems

“Donald Made in Austria”, “Toxisches Pommies”, “Der Unsterbliche Österreicher”, exhibitions, 19/2-2023, 11:00, Karikaturmuseum

“Chiharu Shiota: Across the River”, “Rendezvous mit der Sammlung: Kunst von 1960 bis heute”, “Alpine Seilschaften: Bergsport um 1900”, “Thomas Reinhold: Würdigungsträger 2022”, exhibitions, 19/2-2023, 13:30, Landesgalerie, Krems

“The Son”, film, 25/2-2023, 18:00, Kino im Kesselhaus, Krems

“Andy Warhol to Damien Hirst - The Revolution in Printmaking”, exhibition, 27/2-2023, 14:00, Albertina Modern, Vienna

“Monday Improviser Session”, experimental music concert, 27/2-2023, 20:00, Celeste, Vienna

“Makedonissimo”, concert, 3/3-2023, 19:30, Festspielhaus, St. Pölten

“Sokol Gala”, award ceremony, 10/3-2023, 18:30, Landesgalerie, Krems

“Sokol Titelseiten”, “The Award Goes to...”, “Erwin Moser”, exhibitions, Karikaturmuseum, 10/3-2023, 20:30 (Sokol Gala)

“The Body Crystalline”, body and voice workshop with Oisín Monaghan, Tanz Quartier, 12/3-2023, 10:00, Vienna

“Birke Gorm: dead stock”, “MAK design Lab”, “Falten Folds”, “Entangled Relations”, “The Fest”, “werkstätte Haugner” “Wien 1900”, exhibitions, 12/3-2023, 14:30, Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna

“All Around”, dance and music performance by Will Guthrie and Mette Ingvarsten, Tanz Quartier, 18:00, 12/3-2023

Session to test sounds and make recordings in the Minoritettenkirche, 12:00, 13/3-2023

“The creation of light”, concert by ensemble Klangforum Wien, 13/3-2023, 18:00, Konzerthaus, Vienna

“Monday Improviser Session”, experimental music concert, 13/3-2023, 20:00, Celeste, Vienna

“ON STAGE - Kunst als Bühne”, “Who will play for me (Emilia Rigová)”, “mixed up with others before we even begin”, exhibitions, 16/3-2023, 13:00, Mumok, Vienna

“Cues on point (Christine Sun Kim)”, “Kirawa (Kresiah Mukwahzi)”, “Loophole (Jordan Strafer)”, “Bethovenfries”, exhibitions, 16/3-2023, 16:00, Secession, Vienna

“MRM trio”, experimental music concert curated by Free Music Forum concert series, 16/3-2023, 21:00, Celeste, Vienna

“Kurdistan”, concert at Imago Dei festival, 18/3-2023, 19:00, Minoritettenkirche, Krems

“Schwarm/Essiam (Félix Blume)”, sound installation, 18/3-2023, 20:00, Klangraum, Krems

Private concert for my fellow artists in residence, at the apartment, 24/3-2023, 16:30

“Traumfänger (Angela Glajcar)”, vernissage, 24/3-2023, 19:00, Landesgalerie, Krems

“Die Zeichnung Entsteht Im Kopf”, exhibition, Forum Frohner, 25/3-2023, 16:00

“Nach Lemberg”, concert at Imago Dei festival, 25/3-2023, 19:00, Minoritettenkirche, Krems

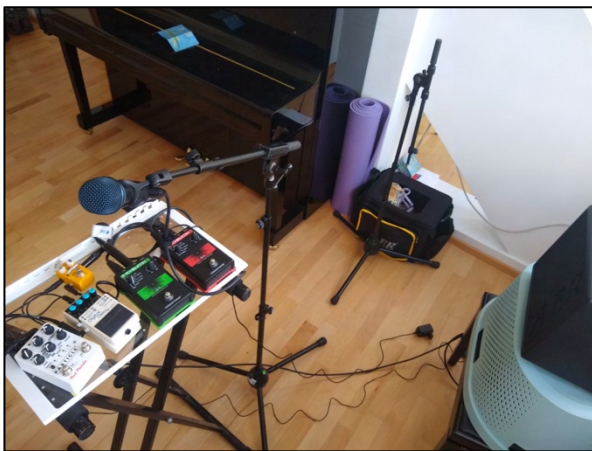
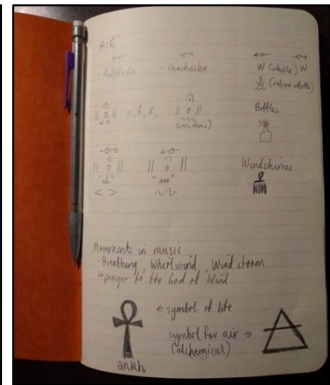
Visited the Dominikanerkirche, tested the acoustics and made some video recordings, 26/3-2023, 10:30, Krems

Visited the permanent exhibitions at Museumkrems, 25/3-2023, 11:30, Krems

Visited the permanent exhibitions at Museum im Kaisertrakt, Gottweig Abbey, 26/3-2023, 15:30, Furth

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (all photos by me)

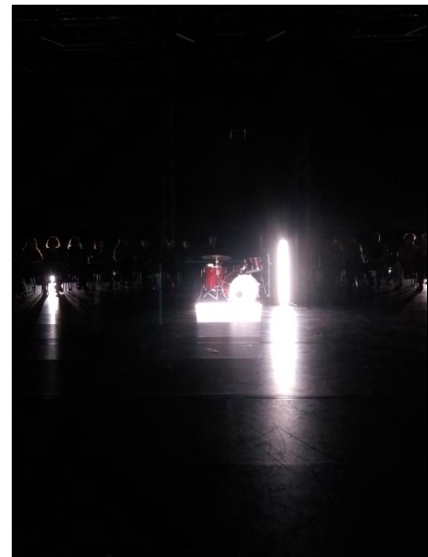
Working in the apartment



Outings in Niederösterreich

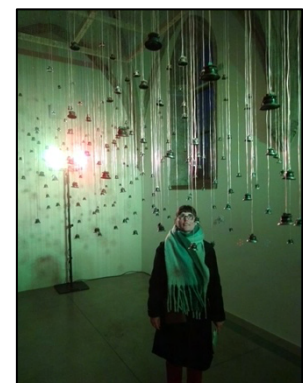
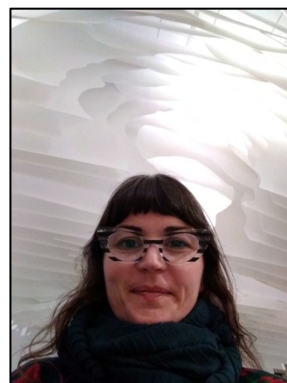


Concerts



Top left: Klangforum Wien, Konzerthaus, Vienna, March 16th ; Top Right: Very Macedonian, Festspielhaus, St. Pölten, March 3rd; Bottom left: Imago Dei, Minoritetenskirche, March 25th; Bottom right: Guthrie + Ingvarsten, Tanz Quatier March 12th

Exhibitions in Krems

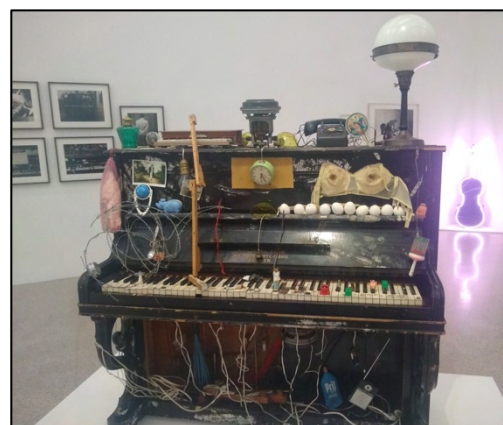
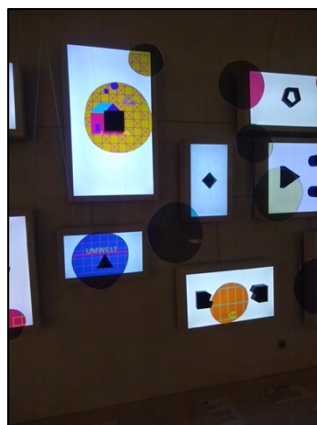


Far left: Chiharu Shiota 'Across the River' exhibition at Landesgalerie, 19/2; Middle left: outside the Karikatur Museum; Middle right: at opening of Angela Glajcar 'Traumfänger' at Landesgalerie, 24/3; Far left at Félix Blume sound installation, Minoritetenskirche, 25/3.



Far left: taken at Kunsthalle Krems at African Portraiture exhibition; taken at Landesgalerei at Rendezvous mit der Sammlung exhibition; taken at Museumkrems of local wine production exhibition.

Exhibitions in Vienna



Top left: taken at Dead Stock exhibition, M.A.K., March 12th; Top middle: taken at Design Lab, M.A.K., March 12th; Top right: taken at On Stage exhibition, Mumok March 16th; taken at Who Will Play for Me exhibition, Mumok, March 16th; of Katalin Ladik 'Selected Folk Songs' at On Stage exhibition, Mumok, March 16th.