



Helen Grogan

**DEPARTING REPORT - AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich - August-October 2018**

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Overarching Residency Research Frame: *OBSERVATION ACTION (Forever stepping into the river)*  
 New work for residency-supported exhibition Project: *Untitled (FIELD RECORDINGS - PART 1. 2018-2028), 2018*  
 Concurrent collaborative project (ongoing): *CASTING/RECASTING* (working title) with Shelley Lasica 2018-  
 Concurrent photo archives (ongoing): *practicing haptic affection for a hostile neighbourhood 2018- + to touch/to meet 2018-*  
 Concurrent photographic/sculptural work (development): *DISPARATE OCCUPATION 2018-*  
 Concurrent reiteration of solo exhibition (development): *POEM (with insistence on plurality)*, Galerie Stadtpark 2015-  
 Concurrent photographic/sculptural series (development): Proposed sculptural recreation of happenstance snapshots that capture Austrian public spaces set up for public assembly (with seating, railing, and/or amplification etc)  
 Concurrent theoretical research: somatic empathy and visuality; perception theory and the grit of real; waywardness within systematicity (as offering gaps, slippages, and openings within existing knowledge systems, language, and institutions of looking/listening/observing/inhabiting); strategies for expanded spatiality and temporality.

From August to October 2018 I undertook artistic research, discourse and practice within the framework of AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, Krems. This was made possible through the SITUATE artist exchange program of RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia via my Melbourne-based role as Specialist Lecturer The School of Art, RMIT. Without this specific avenue to direct me to apply, I do not think I would have sort out an artist residency situated in regional Austria. Previously, I have been steered towards Europe's larger cities. Niederösterreich seemed

quite unknown. Prior to arrival in Krems, I had anticipated a largely calm and somewhat solitary 3-month research period, intercepted by a joint exhibition in Vienna. Reading theory on the sunny grass by the Danube, hiking myself out of residual stress, carefully and quietly testing out the key concerns of my artistic practice - this is how I had imagined my time to be prior to arrival. None of those things happened.

What unfolded from August to October 2018 was an intense and dynamic compression of critical learning/making/sharing. Studio research and discursive exchange was full, challenging, and unique to the Austrian artistic and artistic and political climate within the international European contemporary art field.

The most crucial aspect of working within AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich context was the critical discursive exchanging with brilliant contemporary artists at the residency, as well as the remarkable core staff Sabine Gülденfuß, Klement Nadja and expanded team of Krems-based curators including Andreas Hofer, David Komary, Christiane Krejs, Günther Oberhollenzer, Florian Steininger.

Such discourse enriched and challenged the 3-month compression of projects, which included: 10-day collaborative research with Australian choreographer Shelley Lasica; draft installation system for footage filmed with Lasica; 3-week space-responsive process on site at GALERIE IG BILDENDE KUNST, Vienna; new video collage/sculptural work for the exhibition 'INTO THE SPACE' co-curated by Günther Oberhollenzer and Vasilena Gankovska with Judith Sauper and I; evening presentation with Vienna-based feminist discussion group; development of two propositional photographic/sculptural works for public space; preparations for a solo exhibition at Galerie Stadtpark, Krems.

AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich is an exceptionally well organised and facilitated artist in residency experience, integrated into the unique arts precinct that is kunstmeile, Krems. The key concerns of my practice have indeed re-emerged through this opportunity - Yet, not through careful and quiet reflection by the sunny Danube River. Instead, it is the vigorous and energetic intellectual context of the residency that has proven to be the operative force for invaluable self-critique and insight. It is with my warmest thanks that I depart AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich.

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