

Josef Achrer

AIR - Artist In Residency  
Final report

At first it is necessary to write my big thanks for all organizers of AIR Krems, because all these nice people making great environment for my concentration there without any troubles. All the time I felt that it is really up to me what I will do in which time and it is absolutely important for my good condition and good results in my work.

Time in my studios /I have to write "studios", because I used two spaces, my private apartment studio I used for photography and common studio for painting/ I can separate to the three parts, but all of them are one common point and it is delay in progress, because I planned these works longer time before but I still cannot focused to it better.

One the beginning of my time here I made bigger painting works on paper where I found new solutions of combination between three dimensional view to landscape and some geometric shapes with few letters. Painting on paper for me is really different that on canvas, because I can't paint through the canvas grid and all is very clear, less physical. Some of this works looks like a posters where I use letters, and it is my new important experience and it will become new series. I felt that this kind of painting with letters working much better on paper than on canvas, it is more fresh and not too serious. And one point is important there, that the landscapes are very influenced of Donau valley with rockies, I like it very much.

Main part of my work in Krems was painting on canvas, I tried to paint size of picture what I really don't like before and it is middle size about one meter. I usually paint formats about two meters or very small I like too. At first it is good write something about my topic, it is complicated relationship between human of today, information and nature. What is more important, reality or image of reality on our digital devices? How we are influenced of this information universe what we have in easy touch. I work with some my own idea construction where I use expression "Infomaniac society", because I think that people became big information excited consumers and often their real life is much boring. I know that this is more sociologist issue, but I want to apply this question on very old classic media like painting. Because painting before explore of photography provided strongest virtual experience and I want to find answers, how we changed our mind by this issue. I'm working with this topic /DATA series/ from 2013 and now I came back to classic painting where I make strange mixing of undefined abstract shapes, letters, lines, grids and all is combine with background of landscape what I paint through the canvas grid. It is important to explain why I paint from back side of canvas, because it makes special structure what be composed by thousands points of color like pixels system on display. And now here in Krems I wanted to paint more loosen and wild pieces and I think that I maybe got it and I hope that I will gain from this condition when I will be back in my home studio, because my experience is that this small important moves could be hard to conserve.

Third part of my work was photography by my first handmade camera. I'm working with photograms for four years because my interest is use photography like painting, in photograms it is more two dimensional it is more like print, but here I made little stage for abstract still life and I made many tests with shining, focus, distance, time and all what I need to know for next works. At the final I want to make two bigger projects with this technology on big format, but I can't said anything about it because I really want to do it. In general not all tests were success but some of them are nice images.

After time in Krems I want to continue in all this three projects and I have one nice duty and it is working on my exhibition here in Krems what will be at June and July in Gallery Stadpark. This really nice gallery is in cooperation with residency and has good program prepared by curator David Komary. I'm looking forward to it very much.

At the end I have to write something about Austria. Yes I'm from Czech and I really like Austria for many years /special relationship Austrians with art/ and when I'm going back to my country I'm

sometimes very disappointed from Czech society if I can compare it. It is difficult issue but I believe that we will become good like before hundred years because we have nice neighbors like Austria. It is nice because at 31h of October it will be exactly hundred years when we was one country. I didn't spend longer time in Austria before and now with this experience I have to say that is pleasure to be here.

I can't forget what I all visit here but it could be long list of nice places, exhibitions, galleries, museums, vineries and bars like my favorite bar "Piano" in Stein. So last information about my time in Krems and how many nice places I visited have my "good uncle" Garmin and he said: 163 km running and 656 km on bike in really beautiful landscape.

Thank you for your invitation and ALL.

Josef Achrer  
25th May 2018  
Krems an der Donau