

AIR Report_Andrew Neumann

How was the residency?

Each residency is a different experience. Some are highly communal with daily group meals and spontaneous presentations each evening. This residency places the artist in a more isolated environment, which can be asset to those artist who need to really isolate themselves and indulge in their artistic practice. I had the chance to spend time with various technologies I brought with me, and take time to explore without considering the outside world. The town of Krems was a unique experience for me; It is quite beautiful, and offered many walking and bike path options, so being outside here was quite enjoyable. The weather here for the most part was exceptionally beautiful, which for me made it difficult to stay indoors all day and work, but thats just mother nature doing her thing!

Advantages and disadvantages of AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE.

The studio apartment was very nice indeed, clean and very comfortable, and having a deck to sit outside and view The Danube was exceptional. I had large sturdy desks to set up all of my gear on, which allowed me to access all of my tools. The only challenge for me was setting up large sized video projection. It was not really possible in the studio, simply due to its layout and design... So, I just had to move the projector very close to the wall, which gave me a sense of my final visual composition. As with all residencies, you have to adjust and work within your studio environment. The largest challenge for me, not speaking the native tongue made it especially difficult at times, as very little English was spoken here.

What did you realize during your residency period?

I realized a series of electronic music pieces, as well as some video experiments. With no immediate deadlines looming, I basically spent a good deal of the time experimenting with ideas and concepts, which hopefully will reach fruition upon my return home. I shot a good deal of video while here, which will hopefully be incorporated into a new piece as well.

What did you miss at the residency?

An oven in the kitchen would have been nice, but not terribly essential. As I was here for 10 weeks, the group dynamic constantly change. At times people would meet for drinks at the local “Piano Bar”, and at other times, it appeared as no one was here and you were quite on your own; toward the end of my stay, three new residents arrived, and the dynamic was very strong, so we have cooked and explored together, making the residency experience more well rounded.

What do you appreciate at AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE?

The chance to “get away from it all”, to be ensconced in one’s own work, in a clean comfortable studio, and know that you could walk outside to walk or ride a bike to clear your head. Heading west there was much to explore, all the way to Melk, and Vienna, a simple 70min train ride away was obviously an asset as well.