

Report Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl

My stay in the Krems AIR studio was both pleasant and productive. I arrived late in the evening and was picked up at the airport and driven to the town and shown my apartment, with a beautiful view of the Danube and the surrounding hills. The ominous Stein prison on the other side provided a different color in the palette, less pleasant, but equally true and gritty, with its history and its physical presence.

I came to Krems with a big deadline at the end of the month for a novel that I have been working on since 2015, called Hans Blær. My only intention was to find the peace and quiet to concentrate on putting the last touches to the book, as well as reading a few books important to my work. I managed to do this with a few extra days to spare, which I used to walk around, go running by the river, eating good food and hanging out with the other artists-in-residence.

On June 21 I did a reading at the library of the NÖ Literaturhaus in Krems, with the help of the wonderful Sylvie Treudl. It was decently attended for a hot summer day and I had interesting conversations with readers afterwards, as well as signing some books.

The advantages of the residency, besides financial security, housing and peace and quiet are the town Krems, which is the perfect size to house a residency like this – big enough and vibrant enough that stuff happens, but not so big as making you constantly think you are missing something. The inspiration and friendship of the other artists – which I wish I could've spent more time with, but seeing as I was on a hard deadline I was a bit of a hermit. And finally the ever friendly and helpful staff of both Literaturhaus NÖ and the AIR-KREMS.

As for things lacking, they are minor details. The internet connection, which needs to be reset every few hours and disconnects everytime the computer sleeps with a resulting break in work flow when you need to quickly look something up, is irritating. The apartment is also rather hot, when it's sunny – but there are big fans to help with that.

But first and foremost I am just happy for the opportunity to be in Krems and work. As happy as I am to be now rejoining my family, I will miss it.