

Report – Melody Owen
Exchange artist Djerassi Resident Artists Program
Period: April to mid June 2019

How was the residency? Advantages and disadvantages of AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
Niederösterreich

I have participated in many artists residencies around the world including in Paris and Iceland. At each one, I was offered a wonderful and unique place to work and the administrators sought to make my stay a good one. But I have to say that AIR – Niederösterreich has been my one of my favorites. The residency is so generous and thoughtful and the apartment is so nice that I am afraid I am spoiled now.

What did you realize during your residency period?

I was able to finish a body of work in collage form (5 Short Stories About the Moon) as well as establish 5 galleries in a virtual world space (The Open Book Galleries). I also made a spontaneous exhibit in an unused building built in 1700 down the street in Stein that I rented with a former resident of AIR. Here, I showed the collage work I had done as well as a video I made especially for the space. While sitting in the gallery, I made 3 more collages.

What did you miss at the residency?

I did not walk enough. I should have taken a boat up the river and explore the region a little more. I did not do all the software lessons I meant to do. These things were all my fault though. The residency provided everything needed.

What do you appreciate at AIR – Niederösterreich?

The views of the Danube and the hills are amazing. The short walk into the towns, to the river, or the hills is very convenient. I really loved Stein especially.

The apartment I had was luxurious. And there is even more work space if I had needed it but I had plenty. When I needed some software downloaded onto the PC so I could go into a virtual world experience, this was done for me. Extra equipment was lent when needed - even a bike! Did I mention how great the apartment is! I did not leave it very often. Maybe it was too nice. Also, the stipend is wonderful and it feels great to be validated as an artist by being paid for my time working. Really amazing. The administrative office were all incredibly helpful and thoughtful.

Working with David was great. He was very helpful from the start, picking me up in Vienna. And he was very supportive and vital in helping with the exhibit in Stein, lending me vitrines for the

show - and also an extra screen that I used during the whole of my time here. He also helped with contacting the landlord of the space for the show.

All in all, a great experience and I cannot thank you enough. Best wishes. M