

AIR – Artist in Residence Niederösterreich

*Christine Braun September 2019*

September, 2019.

Wake up and enjoy - the view of the vineyards that rise above Krems and Stein and in the morning sun form a wonderful relief in front of the blue sky.

I spent the whole of September here in this very special region of the Danube, vineyards and apricots. This gave me the opportunity to get involved in a very special cultural landscape and to explore the towns of Krems and Stein with their very charming traces from earlier times. The historical buildings and documentations give some idea of the former living conditions and the way of life of the people here in this special environment.

The surroundings, the landscape, the people and their lifestyles, their habits and of course their culture are of particular interest to me. That's why I like to let myself be driven through the new environment and then observe what this changed surroundings do to me, which themes I notice and which invite me to a deeper discussion. These are the themes that inspire me to create new works.

The Artist in Residence program was a wonderful opportunity for me to continue working on my own work and upcoming projects beyond the everyday program and to let myself be inspired for something new.

An existing project will be the solo exhibition in Böblingen, the twin city of Krems. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue that I plan and organize. This year there will also be 2 group exhibitions at Kunstverein Ellwangen and Regionale 20 in Basel.

For my works, I am always curious to find materials that inspire me to create new pieces of art. I am also interested in the everyday things that are close to the people and their daily lives. I've been stuck here on the world-famous Krems mustard, among other things. 200 years ago - exactly in 1819 - a trading company was founded out of the local tradition of mustard production. I developed the Krems mustard sculptures from the mustard and the special meat and sausage specialities and documented them in a photo series.

I took other materials with me as ideas.

The residence program is very routinely organized, which I found very pleasant. The necessary formalities are arranged in an uncomplicated way and otherwise someone is always available for questions and wishes. The conditions are very supportive and create a framework in which I could take care of my own work. The supporting program is stimulating and helps to establish contacts, also with the

other scholarship holders, and on the other hand leaves enough room for my own work.

Thus I was able to visit various offers and exhibitions of the different cultural institutions during my stay here, also the newly opened highlight of the Kunstmeile Krems, the Landesgalerie Niederösterreich.

I also visited Vienna, which is easy to reach, to see exhibitions that interested me. By bicycle you can explore the beautiful Wachau, the Danube and the great wine region and after the visit of the Heurigen the way home is not far...

As a suggestion, in addition to the many amenities that already exist, I would have liked to see a bike that worked better.

For the artistic part, I still have the idea of whether it might be possible to organize one of the vacancies that exist in the city for a few days at a time, so that there would be an opportunity to present oneself, to make a small exhibition. At least if you're only here for 4 weeks, an already existing space would be helpful.

I would like to thank you very much for the wonderful scholarship period and all the people who have contributed with their commitment to making this possible in this way - especially Johan and Andreas - and of course my fellow scholarship holders.