

Report from AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

I spent one month in a residence in Krems, November 2019. I was invited by Literaturhaus NÖ. There was a spacious bright apartment on the top floor under the roof. The apartment had large windows with a view of the Danube and the Göttweig Abbey. The view was very inspiring and amazing. There was also a common room on the top floor where we could meet and spend time together. There were bicycles in the common room that we could rent and ride along the Danube or in town with lots of bike paths. I admit I did not use a bike. Instead, I took long walks along the Danube or in the old town.

In November there were five artists in the residence. France Jobin, a musician from Canada, Stephen Loughman, a painter from Ireland, Nicoletta Pana, an architect from Greece, Yangkura, a visual artist from South Korea and me. Spending some time with artists from all over the world expands horizons, allowing you to view the world from a different perspective. I grew up in a country where borders were closed and therefore I will always be amazed I can communicate with people from other countries. And a discussion with artists from other fields can be also an enlightening experience.

I greatly appreciate that we had presentations in which we introduced each other and that we attended cultural events together – Yangkura's exhibition in Vienna, guided tour with Martha and Wolfgang Denk at Susane Wegner Foundation, exhibition in Galerie Stadtpark, exhibition of Adrian Paci and Teresa Margolles in Kunsthalle Krems.

We also met not only on these events. Yangkura cooked for us Korean dishes and served it to us in the common room. I bought different kinds of Czech beers and cooked special Czech food – potato pancakes. On these occasions we talked about politics in our countries, about customs, culture and creativity.

As far as my work, I came to Krems to complete the manuscript of my next book. I brought six short stories and three short stories I wrote during my residency. I had been writing intensively every day and I achieved my goal. In order to manage a great work pace I had a break every day and walked to the city or along the Danube. Writing in such a bright apartment, at the table with view of houses, river and hills on the horizon, helped me to focus intensively on my work. I used there free writing which I have not done for a long time because I did not have enough time to concentrate. Using that free writing „wrote“ the last short story of the manuscript. It is an amazing experience, when the characters come and do what they want and you just write down what is going on. This short story has to be edited. Maybe I will do most of the work before I leave.

I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to write for a month. Now I need more time to edit the book. If I spent more time at the residence, I would have done more work. But it always

depends on the amount of work and the state of creativity in which an artist is. The time was very useful for me because I had most of the manuscript written and I needed to finish it. I am very grateful for that.

During my residency I also read at the Czech center in Vienna. An author reading is always a great pleasure and an opportunity to meet the readers. I love it.

In my opinion, an artistic residence is a unique opportunity to concentrate on work, get inspiration, get impulses of other artists. I appreciate and thank Julia Schwarzinger and Johan Nane Simonsen for their support and care during the residency.

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