

Lívia Kožušková

Report on the AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich program in Krems an der Donau

I came to Krems with no expectations. Why? Because sometimes, when we are looking forward to something, in the end we can be disappointed, or it is just not going in the direction we want it to ... but, this was not the case. The possibility to come to Krems appeared to be so important. Good things happen at the right time and in the right place. I came here to “stop” for a while, to start to breathe again, to listen ... and to feel. My life as an Artist in Bratislava is kind of stressful, all the time in a rush. I came directly after finishing one huge project in Slovakia, completely exhausted with no energy. In the first days I just explored the surrounding area a little to get in touch with the city and rhythm of life here. After few days my mind became clear and I could start from the zero point. It is a “gift of time“, somebody said to me and it is true. We as artists, are carrying the ideas in our heads and sometimes there is not enough time to explore them in a way we want to. AIR-Artist in Residence program is the best place for that. And, if I can just mention—the perfect studio, completely suitable for art and creativity, nice place for meeting people, having dinners, city, swimming, running, sports, lovely city centre, Kunstmeile Krems, Landesgalerie Niederösterreich, people, wine, life and time.

During my stay here I was working on two different projects in parallel. As a fine artist and at the same time as a designer. I chose to explore my work in both directions: Architecture and also Fine art. I found the ‘artistic shortcut’ to combine both topics, in a really good way.

The first project I realized here on the residency related to the 3D constructing and deconstructing of space. This huge topic has already been part of my artistic work for a few years, and it still offers something new. In my postgraduate studying at the Interior Design in the Faculty of Architecture FA STU in Bratislava I was concerned with designing the preschool playground space for fun and play. I have also been working with kids for few years. Their ideas and passion for art, movement and play became a part of my research in my work as a designer. I continued with these ideas in Krems, working with two groups of kids during over two periods in July and August. I prepared three workshops, two of them were placed in the Stein-Göttweigerhof preschool near the Kunstmeile in Krems. The third one was organized by the Art and Education department of the Kunstmeile Krems.

The bottom line for all three workshops was to get the children to change the perspective of construction and the design of the space itself. In translation, we changed the angles physically and metaphorically in content, and in material too. Walls became the floor, the floor became the walls, which at the end changed the function of the designed spaces and the objects placed in these spaces. The pool became the climbing wall, the climbing wall became the table and table became a painting hung on the wall. The kids were playful in designing and had fun. Their open ideas are already so inspiring for my future work.

After finishing the work with preschoolers we moved to work with group of 11-13 year old kids. This gave us the opportunity to work with this topic on a different scale. The third workshop “*Deconstruction of the state gallery of the lower Austria*” was specially prepared for the space of the Landesgalerie Niederösterreich. The key idea was to redefine the museum space by turning it inside out. “*What happens when you turn your clothes inside out?*” This metaphor was used to reinterpret the space.

“Can one form determine the other, follow it or change it? Can we deconstruct the inside space of a building by breaking it down into single geometric forms? Can these forms then be arranged to form a new outside shape?”

Pure and cubist shapes found in the interior of the museum space were re-used to form and construct a new outside shape, the “dancing façade” of the State Gallery of Lower Austria. We started and finished with the words *construction & deconstruction, use & re-use, 2D & 3D*.

This project inspired us to design a folding guide for kids visiting the Landesgalerie. We took the idea of changing the perspective of seeing things and spaces, and transformed it into a folding paper game. This guide aims to show the space of the gallery from different angles, to teach, but most importantly, to leave the kids to explore the gallery completely in another direction. The project is in progress, soon to be seen in the Landesgalerie itself. Hopefully we will continue in the future with some more collaborations.

The second line followed by myself here on this residency was concerned with my artistic practice, especially in printmaking. I was working on series of prints related to the topic “Living plants” and “Touching cubes”, which is a nice collaboration with two talented women, Martina Straková—manager and founder of the Publishing House named “Mladé Topole” which is based in Bratislava—and German writer Sylvia Geist. It is a combination of written language and fine art. Hopefully, and I do not want to speak in an advance, this project will “see the sunlight“ in some nice way of a designed book, exhibition, or presentation of some kind.

The AIR artist residency gave me the opportunity to explore my inner and outer space of art and life. Searching and finding became the key points of my time here. I could really think and realize my ideas with time, in peace and freedom. Everything fitted perfectly. The city is kind, people are nice and friendly. I really appreciated the communication I had with the organizational team Sabine Güldenfluss, Johan Nane Simonsen, David Komary, Manfred Schimek, Heidrun Schlögl, Andreas Hoffer, Florian Steininger, Regina Stierschneider, Sibylle Bader...hopefully I have not forget anybody. Especially I have to thank the Art and Education department of Kunstmeile Isabell Fiedler, Beate Artweger, Lisa Saahs. I have had a beautiful cooperation with these women in our workshop planning, perfect communication during the whole period of my stay. It was so inspirational, helpful, equal and full of energy. All of us brought ideas filled with new and fresh air. Last but not least, I want to thank the team of Stein-Göttweigerhof preschool, Melanie, Heidrun and Elisabeth.

I had time to slow down, to search for myself. Now I have many new ideas on which I want to work more.

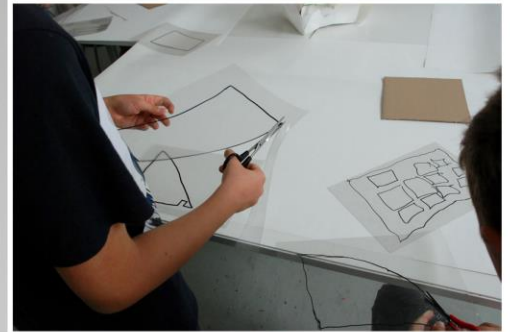
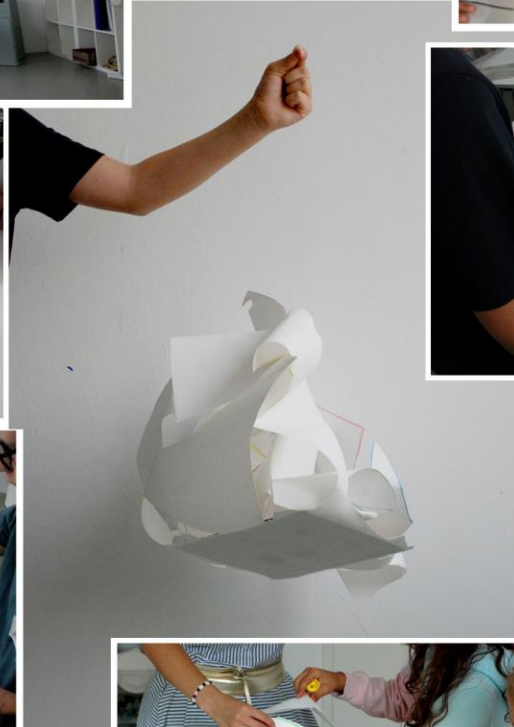
I moved my work in a direction I would never have expected before.

Krems it was my pleasure to meet you.

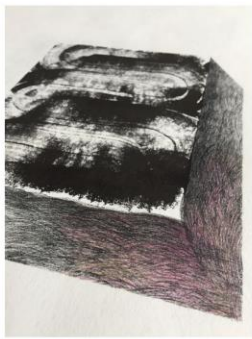
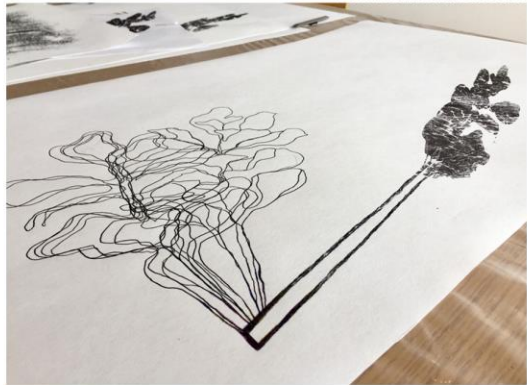
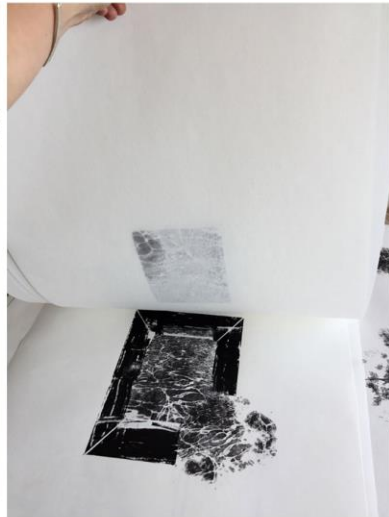
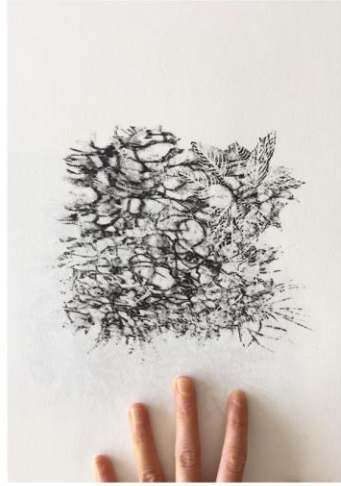
Livia Kožušková
Krems an der Donau
summer 2019



Designing my own playtime space for fun, play and exercising
Livia Kožušková
Stein-Göttweigerhof preschool
Krems 2019
photo: Tomas Sinkevicius



De-Construction of the State gallery of lower Austria space
Livia Kožusková, Art and Education dep. Kunstmeile Krems
Landesgallery
Krems 2019
photo: Ilkin Huseinov



Living plants / Touching cubes
Livia Kožušková
printmaking, mixed media
Krems 2019
photo: Author