

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

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My month in Krems has proved most beneficial to reinvigorating my artistic practice as a whole. I came to Krems from Dublin where I had just left one studio and was preparing to move into another in January. I therefore was without a studio and in a creative limbo with most of my materials in storage. What Krems afforded me was the time to stop, re-evaluate and jumpstart my practice. The studio facilities are excellent and Sabine and her team are all generously helpful with any requests.

The pace of life in Krems is slow but I find this more productive to my work as there are no distractions. For instance although I had never visited Vienna before I found no real desire to go there and even whilst there I found myself desiring to return to Krems to work. Krems may be a quiet town but culturally it is vibrant and I availed of passes to visit all of the cultural institutions here. Cultural highlights in Krems for me included a world class installation of Adrian Paci's work by Andreas Hoffer at the Kunsthalle Krems and the guided tour of David Komary's elegant minimalist Galerie Stadtpark.

The town itself is an unusual mix of colleges, a vast prison and elegant old world architecture and is best explored by walking. The surrounding landscape is agricultural and seems to be teeming with wildlife. All of these factors struck a definite tone with me and my practice as the mood is of a town steeped in history but with a somewhat dark centre.

I concentrated on digital painting while here spending most of my time working on my iPad for a series of digital works that will be made into a large scale projected installation of drawings which will also be animated. I have included examples of some I created during the residency.

At time of writing I am preparing to exhibit in NOEDOK in St Pölten in a few days and Gabriele and her team there have been friendly and thoroughly professional. I enjoy the way that the residency comes with an opportunity to also exhibit as this makes your stay here truly interactive with the community at large.

I return soon to Dublin with my practice refreshed and ready to continue this new body of work, all thanks to this opportunity afforded me.