

## AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, July 1 - July 30, 2020

My stay in Krems this year happened as an unexpected surprise. At the end of June, I was contacted by Julia Schwarzingler from the Literaturhaus Niederösterreich, who explained that due to the current social circumstances regarding the world pandemic, there is a free position available. If I could decide on a short notice, I could come to Krems and work here for a month.

As my own work schedule had been more flexible in the past few months, I accepted the challenge. I had already spent a month as *AIR* in Krems in February, 2018, so that I knew the place and the conditions.

Also, I had been working on two bigger projects and could well use the time to finalize them. I spent most of my time in Krems working on the Slovak translation of the book by Susannah Cahalan *The Great Pretender* that is mainly dealing with criticism of modern psychiatry.

Furthermore, if there was time, I was working on the final version of my book that I am planning to send to the publisher (the preliminary title is *Mothers' Days*). Over the weekend July 17-19, I visited Bratislava, as the Hungarian translation of one of my previous books (translated into Hungarian by Erika Vályi-Horváth) won a Madách Prize and I attended the ceremony organized by the publisher.

I had never been a poet, but recently I decided to send a couple of spontaneously written poems to an anonymous Czecho-Slovak poetry competition *Básne*. I had written my poems throughout the weeks of quarantine in the spring, but during the month in Krems I put them together and I actually sent them from the Krems post office.

I should also mention the exchange with my fellow artists, the visual artist Jennis Li Cheng Tien, who described the artistic life in Berlin and the details of creating her art, painter Vita Opolskyte and a dancer and musician Hannah James, whose performance I unfortunately missed, but with whom I had a very pleasant conversation over a private dinner.

I also profited from the guided tour of the exposition of the South African artist Robin Rhode in the Kunsthalle Krems. It is always a treat to get a tour guided by a curator, and the presence of other two visual artists also made me see details I would normally dismiss.

During the last two weeks, I have been accompanied by my son, who made my work progress slower but my mood better. During his first week, I was able to find a child-care option, which gave me more time to work. During his second week - and the last week of my stay - we also enjoyed the city of Krems and its beautiful surrounding. I have been able to use the time in Krems productively and am thankful for the opportunity.