

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich Report – March 2021

The residency was a perfect opportunity to stay aside from usual daily tasks and concentrate on writing on daily basis. Having a writing routine is the best way (for me) to make a new book happen. Particularly in these pandemic months, when most of us have to improvise and be flexible with the situations we haven't been used to before, such as home schooling kids and home office at one time and so on, residencies for artists are even more helpful.

A big advantage of this residency is for me the location and easy access to vineyards and nature, hikes and ideal running routes along Danube, size of Krems and Stein, where everything is in walking distance in combination with being situated in nice culture spot a bit unexpected in such a small town. As I live in a city, I prefer tranquil and isolated residencies in the countryside, and this is kind of what I needed – historic Stein is also nice bonus and the view on Danube from the rooms as well.

Disadvantage is the pandemic situation, which stole us freedom of socializing with other residents and people around – that's also answer on the question what I missed here.

I've been working here on my next novel - *This is not the chicken* - . It's a story where behavior of various animal species meets (human) art in the farming project of artist at the end of his career. From time to time I have been writing here also poetry – without any concept in this stage.

I also appreciate a lot helpful and kind approach of the organisation team and I want to thank to all of you for making my stay comfort and in pandemic situation also safe.

Many thanks for having me here, I would come back again anytime, hopefully in better times and for longer time.

Katarína Kucbelová