

Report: Maaria Päivinen

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich

How was the residency? Advantages and disadvantages of AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich.

The residency was fulfilling. I could work effectively and wrote a lot of new pages to my new novel script, that I started working on here. I also worked on my poetry collection. I find though, that one month is too short a time - both of my manuscripts would definitely have benefited of another month in this peaceful residence and beautiful Wachau area.

What did you realize during your residency period?

First of all, I realized, or rather remembered again, that I *need* beautiful landscape around me to be able to write with full passion. Krems is surrounded by lovely hills and located next to Donau, and both Krems and Stein are filled with old picturesque houses and buildings - what a perfect combination of an inspiring landscape. And on top of that I could see all that through my studio's window.

In addition to the importance of the surroundings, I yarn culture, as for example paintings give a lot of thoughts and ideas into my writing. Krems has plenty of art museums/ galleries, and we had the opportunity to visit many places. Also conversations with other artists staying in AIR Niederösterreich were important to me. Especially evenings together with Cecilia Hultman and Petr Gruber either in the common space or in Heurigers were really enjoyable.

At the beginning I worked in the big apartment's office space and happened to find a really inspiring novel in the bookshelf. It gave me an idea of creating a novel that includes paintings. After getting to know Petr Gruber's work, I realised, that his calming paintings would fit perfectly the novel I am working on. So now Petr and I are thinking of co-operating with my next novel. So the time in the residency gave me more than I was assuming and hoping for before starting my month here.

What did you miss at the residency?

There was everything I needed, and I felt really welcome here from the first moment on.

What do you appreciate at AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich?

AIR Niederösterreich organized plenty of guided tours, which I am thankful for. Also the first week there was an event, where we met local leaders from different cultural institutions and were introducing each others our work. AIR Niederösterreich really puts effort in bringing artists and cultural institutions together.

We had the opportunity to see lots of art. I appreciate also the welcoming atmosphere. The staff of AIR Niederösterreich and Literaturhaus NÖ was really putting effort in making us feel at home - and through that being productive. I also appreciate the fact, that I was welcome here with my 5-year-old son. He enjoyed the stay too, and luckily there is a childcare place in Krems, where kids

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that are not permanent residences of the city, are welcome to. The place is called Das Kinderzimmer Krems, and I can highly recommend it, in case there are other artists coming in with young children. I could work peacefully knowing that my child was having a good time in caring hands.

I was also able to do and see plenty of inspiring things, that are listed below:

3.9.2021 Wachauer Volksfest

7.9.2021 Karikaturmuseum Krems

9.9.2021 Exhibition: Christian Helwing (B)EAST! guided by Andreas Hoffer

10.9.2021 Parallel Vienna

11.9.2021 Naturhistorisches Museum Wien

11.9.2021 Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

12.9.2021 Schönbrunn Tierpark

12.9.2021 Schönbrunn Irrgarten und Labyrinth

17.9.2021 Kunsthalle Krems

20.9.2021 Dürnstein Vogelberg

22.9.2021 Landesgalerie Niederösterreich

23.9.2021 Guided Tour with Martha and Wolfgang Denk at Susanne Wenger Foundation

24.9.2021 Spitz (Waltgeistweg Wanderung)

25.9.2021 Mautern Wanderung zum Stift Göttweig

Unfortunately I could not take part in Das Land Liest 2021 -programme. Would have loved to attend some readings, but in the evenings I didn't have a babysitter. Anyways, I could concentrate on my literary work perfectly, and have now filled my heart, soul and words with the beautiful landscapes and art, that this residency offered.

Here you can see some pictures, that I took from streets in Krems and from a hike in Spitz.

