

AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich
Report: Markéta Pilátová, November 2021

Krems an der Donau is a symbol of change for me. Eight years ago, when I was here for the first time, I wrote a piece of the novel *Tsunami Blues* and realized here how important a change of environment is for my writing. I usually come up with original ideas somewhere along the way, not at home. Besides, it's important for me that I am alone in my bubble when the household does not distract me and I can follow my writing routine. - I write in the morning, I do some administration in the afternoon and in the evening I learn languages. (Here in Krems an der Donau, I was able to improve German a bit, which I am trying to learn, so that I could at least talk a little about German-speaking readers and event organizers in literary readings, and also because I like German very much.) It sounds simple, but it is normally terribly difficult for me to maintain this routine. I will write at the residence twice more than at home.

The same was true in Krems an der Donau this year. I was able to fully immerse myself in writing a novel with the working title *Nests*, possibly *the Pineapple House*, and to organize huge files full of archival materials and photographs about the Czech-German community in southern Brazil about the fate of which the novel should be. I spent the November days full of sun and fog exactly according to my ideal routine and I was able to figure out the plots, which took me much longer at home, in a familiar environment.

I also really liked the introductory presentation, during which we were able to get acquainted with the work of other residents. This is also great at the residence in Krems an der Donau - connecting artists from different fields such as writing, music and painting is a fascinating experience. One realizes that one is not alone in one's work that seems crazy to most other people. One realizes again that there are other people who perceive the world as one huge opportunity to understand it through art, music, or stories. For me, the residence in Krems an der Donau was like a sip of living water, like a short but very intense breath in the middle of a sea of hurry, uncertainty, ambition and necessity. And thank you very much for all that.