

This period in Krems was fantastic, I have absolutely no complains. Krems never stopped inspiring me. Until the very last week, I was still finding incredible places and collecting images and ideas for new artworks. The professional and personal experiences that I had during these 2 months will definitely have a great impact on my future artworks and in the way I see and relate to the world.

To work side by side with artists from different fields creates (or *can* create for those who are interested in) a tremendous rich atmosphere of exchange, collaboration and, in the best cases, of friendship. The unusual schedule of artist`s arrivals offers us the chance to meet a vaster range of works and artists from different parts of the globe, increasing the possibilities of collaborations. I had the great opportunity to work for a whole month with four amazing artists (Yvonne Freckmann, Clara Rivière, Andrew Neumann and Jana Dabac). We manage to come up with several artworks from which 8 were exhibited in an old wine cellar, that was being used as a garage.

The stories behind the artworks I make are so strong that I can`t avoid including it in the presentation or creating a new piece with it. How the process of the work can affect its surrounding, have gained an important role in my process. Even when it is all done instinctively.

In my first week in Krems, I unintentionally followed a woman to find out that she not only had this beautiful wine cellar, but that she is also a great poet and artist, even though she had never shown her art to the public. I didn`t had to insist much to use her space for an exhibition, since my excitement on seeing her garage seemed to stimulate her. After some meetings and some invitations, while we were installing the exhibition, she got, somehow, stimulated to interfere in the space with beautiful writings and brought us also two of her poems to exhibit. It seems to me that this can be way more meaningful than the artworks itself. Although without the artwork, it would not have happened.

The artworks (videos, audio installations and a cello performance) and the lightning we chose to show were emphasizing the exhibition space, highlighting the beautiful natural wall inside of it. And this gorgeous place is actually very familiar in this region and related to the local life, which brings the public closer to the artworks. The opening, in fact, was really special and the place got the nickname of GARAGERIE.





The day after the opening we spend a beautiful morning, making music at the *Garagerie* with her and her husband, a great musician. Seeing her enthusiasm made me believe that my effort had fulfilled its proposes. It gave a bigger sense to my work.

Krems is a perfect scenario for my research. A bigger city wouldn't permit me to get so close to local characteristics and traditions, which are conditions that I need for work. The artworks produced during this period are in many ways related to Krems and the Austrian culture, touching some delicate and even hard parts of their history.



After the exhibition, we kept working on several other projects with photography and video, some that we concluded and some yet to conclude. Meaning that we had, here, the possibility of creating enough bond with other artists to keep collaborating after the residency.

During the last month, I had an unexpected and spectacular opportunity not only to listen but also to play music (with an instrument I built) with great musicians that shared the residency period with me (Monica and Niels from Boi Akih).



Both experiences and collaborations definitely expanded my sight and will drastically influence the way I work.

During these second months, I also had time to research and, of course, to enjoy myself. But most of all, I had time to contemplate and therefore to get surprised. I see the contemplation as a main daily practice for visual

artists, but a hard one to keep. Being immersed in a residency definitely proportionate situations to exercise it.

I should also say that I was surprised with the studio/apartment offered to us. It did increase my expectation towards residence programs.

I leave Krems very satisfied and stimulated. I highly recommend it!

Photos by Jana Dabac