

Report on my residency in Krems from April 2<sup>nd</sup> until June 28<sup>th</sup> 2007

The most important things I have done and experienced are:

- 1: Making spacecraft models from pages of books about space travel and astronomy.
- 2: Visiting the national library in Vienna to study books about astronomy.
- 3: Working for the exhibition at IG Bildende Kunst in Vienna
- 4: Meeting other artists

The working period in Krems allowed me to focus on my work without any distraction and with the luxury of staying in a scenic region.

Main motive of my work is the desire to go to the moon. Through the years I have collected books about astronomy and space travel.

I want to use the books as a material to work with and therefore give them a place in my work.

In Krems I started with making spacecraft models from the pages of the books.

Finally I made a dozen models. Ranging from satellites, rockets and a radio telescope.

With the models I made an installation: the small models hang from the ceiling above eye level, people have to look up to see them. Paper strips and circles surround the models.

On the floor a small wooden box is placed: on top of the box is the radio telescope, rotating slowly.

Another model I made is "Alouette", a Canadian satellite. This model is a bit larger than the other ones: about 40 by 25 cm.

I made a short film about this model floating on the Danube.

Before I came to Austria I knew I wanted to visit the National Library in Vienna.

At home I already checked the website and catalogue.

There is a huge collection of antique books and maps. Several times I have been to the library to research the astronomy books and celestial maps.

I studied books written by astronomers such as Copernicus, Herschel, Schiaparelli and Galileo. I have a special interest in the drawings made by the astronomers, drawings of their observations or drawings explaining their theory.

At the map department I have studied old maps of the moon and celestial maps as well as maps made by the NASA of the Apollo project.

I kept notebook with notes and drawings on the books and maps.

The drawings of Mars made by the Italian astronomer Schiaparelli have been starting point for two of my works: the Circles.

And probably more of the drawings of the scientist will play a role in my work the next few months.

The circles as well as the installation with the models were exhibited at IG Bildende Kunst.

Together with Jutta Strohmaier I had a show there from June 20<sup>th</sup> until July 20<sup>th</sup> 2007.

For me this was a very nice way to end my stay in Austria.

At the gallery I presented new works I made in Krems and also older works I made in my studio in Maastricht and a series of silk-screen prints I made in Banff, Canada where I stayed as an artist in residence in 2003.

During my stay in Krems I met several artists.

Because of the exhibition we had together I met Jutta Strohmaier. She lives in Vienna and often when I visited the national library we met and had lunch together or visited an exhibition.

I also met Pélagie Gbaguidi, an African artist who lives in Brussels.

We had a good time together and advised one another about our works.

One day we made a movie together: Pélagie held the model of the satellite (Alouette) and handled it as if it was a ritual object.

The most interesting part of having a residency is getting out of ones circle of friends and family and meeting new people and being somewhere where you have not been before. It broadens your horizon and gives more meaning to your life.

Besides Jutta and Pélagie I met more people, among them: Ben Huebsch, a German painter whom I am still in contact with and Cornelia Koenig, an Austrian artist who is also the curator from the Badener Kunstverein.

Those three months in Krems I have been able to work hard, meet new people and give an impulse to my work. It really was a privilege to get this opportunity!