

October 28, 2007
Krems A.I.R. Report
Alexis O'Hara

I am very grateful for the time I have spent in Krems in the A.I.R. program. I was very comfortable in the apartment/atelier. I found the staff was helpful and kind. It was great to make acquaintance with fellow A.I.R. Dan Devening; we went on a number of excursions in the area and became friends.

Having been invited by the Klangraum, I was very happy to meet Jo Aichinger in person as well as the skilled and friendly team organizing Kontraste. The equipment I had asked had been installed in my atelier and I spent the first week in my atelier, rehearsing for my show on October 6th. Prior to the show, I was interviewed by someone making a documentary for Austrian TV. My set at the Minoritenkirche was excellent. The sound was wonderful, the audience receptive. I had felt a challenge to push myself to new heights in honor of the venue, the festival and the fact that I was sharing the bill with one of my heroes, Ms. Diamanda Galàs. These efforts paid off. I made new fans, who later contacted me via the web, people who had traveled from Graz, Linz and Vienna for the concert.

A few days later, I took the train to Ljubljana where I participated in the Mesto Zensk / City of Women festival. In the following five days, I sat on a discussion panel, premiered a new performance and taught a workshop on "musique concrète" to a group of young performers. I also had the chance to see a number of works, from visual art to dance to music. The festival, in its 13th year, was well organized and provided many opportunities for artists and promoters to meet each other. I made contacts with promoters from Mumbai and Sarajevo for 2008.

Over the course of the next two weeks, I attacked many projects. I edited a portion of my live show at the Klangraum Minoritenkirche. It can be found on the web at www.myspace.com/alexisohara. I reviewed some prior recordings and made pre-production notes for my second album. I created two new songs and recorded demo versions in my atelier. I edited a short video that will be included in a performance I will do in Toronto in early November. I wrote a travel grant for a performance that is to be presented in Brussels in February.

I also visited Vienna a number of times, exploring the museumquartier and the flohmarket as well as checking out a number of live performance venues.

Overall my time in Krems was very productive and very rewarding. My sincere thanks go out to Jo Aichinger, Elke and Sabine in the A.I.R. offices and all the technical crew of Kontraste. I hope to have the opportunity to work here again.

Alexis.