

Project Report:

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE at Kunstmeile Krems in January and February 2008.

Ganesh Anandan – percussionist / instrument builder / improviser / composer
1566 Av. Ducharme
Outremont, Montreal
Quebec H2V 1G3
Canada

AIR Krems

Director: Mag. Hartwig Knack
Assistant: Sabine Guldenfusz MAS,
Secretary: Mag. Elke Pehamberger
Festival Artistic Director: Joe Aichinger

March 1st, 2008

TO ALL OF YOU,

Thank you very much for inviting me as Artist in Residence during January and February 2008. This is my first time in Austria and Krems and I am delighted to be here.

As a percussionist/instrument builder/improviser/composer, my residency focused on writing projects, composing, meeting new artists in Austria and starting new collaborations, this was very successful!

During my residency, I met other invited artists in Kunstmeile Krems including Michael Tweed (visual artist & poet), Edi Hirose (photographer), Vladislav Bajac (writer, director) and documentary film makers Katarina Veldhues and Gottfried Schumacher. I rehearsed and played informal “in house” concerts in the building of Kunstmeile Krems with Micheal Tweed doing poetry while photographer Edi Hirose took magnificent photos. Vladislav Bajac, Katarina Veldhues and Gottfried Schumacher were also present.

I had the opportunity to see concerts and network with musicians in Vienna. And in January, I saw drummer/percussionist Pierre Favre at Porgy & Bess. After his concert Joe Aichinger introduced me to him and we exchanged information, Cd’s and had a warm meeting. In January, I was also invited to a party for the anniversary of KunstRadio FM 92 in Vienna. During this event there were performances “live on air” where I met many artists including Markus Mayerhofer, a guitarist, composer and electronic musician with whom I have many affinities. We started a collaboration and recording in February.

Festival director Joe Aichinger suggested the names of several interesting artists in Austria whom I contacted and some of them responded including: Christof Dienz (Bassoon & Experimental Zither) with whom I met and also have many affinities. We will collaborate on a new project in the near future. I also re-established contact with drum maker Norbert Eckermann (Vienna) who in the past has made drums for me.

Joe Aichinger has also invited me to be the percussionist with Greek singer Sabina Yannatou who will be Artist in Residence in Krems (June, 2008). This is for a special concert involving many musicians during the festival in July.

In February, I gave two rhythm workshops in the BRG High School in Krems, they were very successful. The teachers showed an interest to have other workshops in June.

During my residency here, I was also able to write new material and I am looking forward to trying it out with appropriate musicians.

In conclusion, my residency is the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between me and many artists in Austria. Thanks to AIR Kunstmeile Krems it's a beautiful new adventure!

MY BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!

Ganesh Anandan
www.fingerworks.org