

Report

Air Krems

Claudia del Fierro, July 2010-11-29

I attended AIR Krems in July of 2010 as part of an exchange between MAC (Contemporary Art Museum) Chile and AIR KREMS. I applied in May thanks to contact made by Esperanza Martínez and MAC. I proposed to apply together with Chilean visual artist Marcela Moraga to develop a joint project, but I was accepted to attend alone.

I arrived in AIR Krems on the 1st of July and stayed in the residency for one month, except for 4 days during the first week (July 4-8) when I had an earlier engagement abroad and some sightseeing trips into Vienna and Bratislava on weekends.

I am working often with the performative aspects of video and photography. During my stay in Krems I developed a series of color photographs called "What is not there", images of landscapes from the area that I reached in long hikes or bicycle trips, mimicking the tourists that frequent the Donau valley. The images were shot by using a single mirror reflex digital camera that I placed inside a black box with a small aperture. The photographs are mostly a black surface with a round aperture into the landscape scenes. Days were long and sunny.

I also finished editing a video called "Reading circle", that I had initiated during an earlier stay in Berlin. This video is made from audiobook fragments and footage shot during an interview with a musician who has had a mystical epiphany. It is part of a project I am developing in relation to people who consider themselves outsiders to the modern system of life.

I showed both "What is not there" and "Reading circle" at a group show I was invited to in Santiago in August, at Galería Departamento 21.

During the third week of my residency I invited Marcela Moraga to visit for a week and we outlined a future project, inspired on the stay at Krems. The project is an animation about a town that is imploding. We were very interested in the architecture in Krems and the way that historical towns in Europe have become at the same time globalized and alienated by tourism and economic changes. We shot material in and around the town and we hope to look for the funding to work on the animation during the coming year, and to be able to show it.

The residency was pleasant and a good space to work in. It was a productive space, although I missed a bit more contact with the other artists or local community, I suppose that is what summer in Krems is like. The contact with the coordinator was very easy and the facilities were practical and comfortable.