

# AIR Krems Report

*Peter Lenkey-Tóth*

## **How was the residency? Advantages and disadvantages of AIR Krems. What do you appreciate at AIR Krems?**

The residency was one of my best experience. I enjoyed each moment of it as AIR Krems provided me with excellent conditions. At first I have to mention both studios which I used; it is a very good idea that each resident has proper apartment and can use the common studio. Both of them are very large, clear and fit for the studio work. The rooms are very comfortable and warm, the kitchen is well-equipped, and the household utensils made my days smooth. I am especially grateful for the dishwasher. One of the advantages of AIR Krems is the town itself. This is a beautiful place with wonderful surroundings, and I loved taking my everyday walks by the bank of the River Donau. I am fascinated by the cultural institutes and galleries in Krems. It is certain that everything is managed well. Above all I have to emphasize the excellent work of Sabine and Karin. They were always ready to help me. Their visits to my studio were great things; they gave me very good feedbacks, inspiration, and made me find new ideas. I am also very grateful that David also visited my studio and I had a choice to have meaningful discussion with him. Finally I find it great that a member of the resident's family may also stay here. What are the disadvantages of AIR Krems? Nothing. I think that AIR Krems is an excellent place, and everyone – certainly including the cleaning lady – does fine work. This is a first class place with high-class people.

## **What did you realize during your residency period?**

*My projects – Unhomely homes*

One lost solidity, substance, unambiguity and continuity of the self- and the place-identity in the modern society. So the home and the relation to it have changed. The result of the increasingly globalizing world and the consumer society is an individual who no longer has long-term aims and plans but he or she tries to conform himself or herself to permanently changing conditions and constantly eroding values. Bauman uses the tourist as a metaphor for

the identity of those people who adapted to this world and who no longer have a stable sense of time and space. (And I was also a tourist in the sense of Bauman's metaphor in Krems.) So one only lives in the present and can not plan a long-term „game” in this constantly changing world. The most characteristic feature of the contemporary society is the mobility; the purpose is not to get to somewhere but being on the move. The separateness becomes the main feature of the individual self in the globalisation. The home is not only a haven in a certain sense but it is also a terminal through which one can access to the different networks of traffic and computer. So the home produces the availability of the physical and virtual travel which resulted in a permanent, continuous dislocation. I reflected it on my project called 'Beds I have ever slept in'. The idea of this project is a traveler's home as an unhomey home where one can move in but not settle in. However, the temporality can also be found comfortable and enjoyable. As I travel a lot I have the opportunity to collect photos of those places where I spent some time. I painted four beds which I took photos of during my travels. So these paintings show the latest places where I have been to. For example you can find my bed in Krems. This project is ongoing but Krems is the place where I found it out.

My other project is in relation with the first one. Similarly it shows an unhomey home which is brand new as if it derived from an IKEA catalogue but it is empty revealing only the traces of a person.

My third series is a story of the gloves, four pastel and chalk drawings in which I tried to constitute a relation between modern and vintage objects.

To sum up, I managed to create lots of artworks and I got new inspiration and new ideas from the place

### **What did you miss at the residency?**

Fortunately, I can answer this question in short. Nothing (certainly beside my family).