

AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE KREMS REPORT

ALICE HUI-SHENG CHANG and NIGEL BROWN

AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2015
RMIT UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE in STUDIO 20

How was the residency? Advantages and disadvantages.

- Advantages: quiet and beautiful surroundings; supportive staff; great local food culture; easy access to shops and nature.
- Disadvantages: the expense for transport to visit events in Vienna, and to find accommodations. It would be great to have an exchange place to stay in Vienna sometimes.

What did you miss at the residency?

- An oven! It would be great to have a shared oven in studio 25.
- Asian grocery supplies (good Asian noodles, etc).

What do you appreciate at AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE?

- Amazing people all over various arts organisations. Our project is only possible because of you all.
- Artists with diverse cultural background and personalities, great exchanges and inspirations.

What did you realize during your residency period?

During our residency period, we spent the first week visiting possible recording sites in and around Krems and Stein. We created a GPS-map noting possible laneway, stairwell, courtyard, carpark, church, gallery, ruin, castle, and more. In the following weeks, we used this reference to revisit and make recordings focussing on unique characteristics of the town.

We started recording from the second week onwards. We performed in-site improvisations to the specific acoustic properties of the chosen sites, and responding to the sound of the environment and public at that point in time. We had curious people interacting with us verbally or nonverbally, most with an open mind.

Nigel also sourced materials locally and mounted his accordion on a bicycle for mobility, as well as for the realisation of a secondary project in sound walking. Walking through the streets of Krems and Stein with the bicycle-mounted accordion creating a continuous drone, a kind of personal mapping of the acoustic space was achieved; the architectural properties of archways, courtyards, and open and closed streets reflecting and modulating the tone. These walks were recorded for use in future outcomes. The walks also served as an opportunity to meet locals and speak about our project.

Overall, we felt this residency project challenged us with creating our work in a foreign public platform, exposing our process outside of our comfort zone. We were allowed to take the risk to have our music merged into the surrounding sonic life, in a codependent relationship. Thus encouraging passers-by, and ourselves to reevaluate the norms of sonic environment.

In addition to our main residency project, we gave two more formal public performances. The first took place in Kunsthalle Krems, inside the installation of Ernesto Neto (Paxpa - There is a Forest encantada inside of us) as part of the Art in our City event. The second was in Vienna for Multiversal Festival, at arts venue Mo.ë. Both performances were well attended and allowed us to present our work to a specific arts community.

Data of project

Project title: *Wachau Passersby*

All the in-site recordings are unloaded onto this site, navigated with a map.

<http://nigelbrownsound.com/wachau>

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Project Description

A project by Alice Hui-Sheng Chang & Nigel Brown. During a 10-week residency at AIR Krems, Austria they will record in-site sound improvisations in public spaces. These conversations will be open to the interjection of passersby and incidental sound entering the sonic dialogue. Recordings will be published on an online map, enabling locals and visitors to Krems to listen in situ after the fact; inviting an altered perception of sound and environment through the introduction of a foreign body and a moment to reflect.

The recordings from this residency period will be composed into multiple outcomes in the future. First an 8-channel composition on the 8th November 2015 in Melbourne as part of RE::SET::Bishops Parlour listening event. More stereo compositions will be created in coming months for outcomes like radiophonic work for radio playback, and web and CD releases.

Photos from the project in various sites



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