

Tamás Szvet

AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Krems

(2015 November)

### **REPORT:**

The Artist in Residence program in Krems was really great and gave me the perfect atmosphere to concentrate to my artistic practice. I really enjoyed having no pressure, and everything was well organised. The studios are really nice, and the surrounding nature is beautiful. I enjoyed biking and hiking, and playing table tennis in the studio after the shared meals. It is a real meeting place. I had lot of inspiration and idea out of the interaction with the other artists. The cultural life of Krems is also interesting and inspiring.

If I have to tell, what I have missed, it was only the oven, but just because I wanted to introduce the Hungarian cousin to the others.

### **PROJECT:**

Working at Krems was really nice, and productive. During the residency I have started several ideas, which I will develop further in the future. My most developed project called: *Relation – Geometry of the clouds* – is an installation on window glass. The starting point was the huge windows in my studio room, which I often glance out to the city. Watching the word from the distance, I remembered Gaston Bachelard's novel: *The Poetics of Space* (1958). In the essay the house represents a safe place, where the rooms are an imaginative expression of our private self. We design our interior space according to our needs and desires, so we can feel free within it. The attic for example good to hide things, like our unconscious, and the basement is where our fears stay. But what is the window than?

Windows occupies a space between the personal and the public. Looking out the window, we are aware of a place that exists between the internal and the external, a space where we can dream of achievements and plans as we peer into the world and see possibilities. So the windows are our eyes, and awareness of the reality, watching fearfully the world and its happenings.

The appearance of the scene out of the window might not chance, but when we know far away happenings, we fill the view with emotions, and fears. When we read the daily news in the newspaper – a strange material, what we throw away in the next day – we project the happenings of the world into our surrounding.

I cut out the picture from the daily newspaper, and covered the window with it. In this way we can observe our city with the titles of the articles. By this we can start to search the problems within our community, or we can see the changing and circulating topics, and wonder how our life is related to them.

## **COLLABORATION:**

Another work I made during the Residency is a kind of collaboration. When I realised that I got the musicians room for my stay, my childhood dream was awakened. I wanted to be a pianist, but I haven't had the chance to learn piano. The wish to play were always strong instead me. But without the knowledge, I needed to invent some personal method to use the instrument. After reading, that the first Sholes and Glidden typewriter in the 1870s was based off a piano, I became curious how I can arrange my own setting into the instrument, and connect the letters with the sounds.

Some projects already tried to reconnect the two 'machines' but mostly from a pure technological direction. Technicians want to make the most logical setting, for the hands, to make as quickly to write or to play as possible, but that doesn't sounds well. I was rather interested of another aspect of this idea to link together two systems. Little bit like in the case of the neurological phenomenon called Synaesthesia, where the colours connect with numbers, when stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway.

After careful consideration I set the letters of the alphabet into the piano keys based on my own instincts. There are of course lots of difficulties, and questions I need to think of in the future, so I consider this artistic investigation as a small test of an idea. I played *The Odyssey Of Homer*, the *Sonnets* form Shakespeare, and the daily news with this technique. They actually sounded differently.

For the final test, I asked a writer Dr. Radka Denemarková PhD (residence in the same period) for collaboration. She chosen and given me a text she wrote to play. The result is an audio recording and a short video documentation of the performance.

Attached pictures info:

*Tamás Szvet: Relation – Geometry of the clouds / newspaper, size variable, Krems 2015*