

AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCY Krems - report - Kristóf Kovács
2-28 March, 2018

My stay in Krems in the AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE program was very fruitful!

During the residency I've worked on a few separate projects. I've arrived with a few things in mind but luckily the place was so influential that I had better things to do than what I had previously planned. Right now I'm working on a research project for which the silent uninterrupted time in Krems was very beneficial. The research is about how an artwork can exist in a constant state of flux. Its working title is UNFIXED ENDINGS. The time I've spent in Krems was largely spent with further developing the research through a more experimental approach and producing artworks in connection with the research. (Sometimes inadvertently and to my big surprise). Now that I look back at the projects I've realized during this month I'm also quite surprised that most of the work is text based. (see end of the document)

I am very happy that I could have worked in such a relaxed state for a month. In the beginning I thought it would be really hard to leave in the end, and it is very hard but as a matter of fact, I am now happy to go home because I've got what I came for. With only the best possible connotations I would like to compare the AIR -- ARTIST IN RESIDENCE to a sanatorium. My time here was vital, and now I'm hoping that when I go home I can keep up the routine I've established while in Krems. What I really appreciated at AIR -- ARTIST IN RESIDENCE is that I had the freedom to focus entirely on what I was doing. There were no duties, nothing to worry about, somehow I could escape those quotidian things that occupy my mind everyday. For that reason, the residency program for me was an almost religious retreat.

The studio apartments were designed specifically for artists in residence and they are absolutely perfect. It was very good to see and use such a well thought out environment. The common studio is very well equipped, (much better than my studio at home to be honest) and although I did bring my own set of tools, I've also used many of the studio's. I live in Budapest which is also next to the Danube (about 400 kms down) just like Krems. What I liked about Krems is though it is close to Wien it is unbelievably silent and peaceful. It was good to see a different face of this river I thought I knew well.

Apart from working on my projects I took quite a lot of walks around Krems, giving myself the freedom of letting my thoughts roam freely without the pressing (self-dictated) demand of productivity. I feel that there is decreasingly less chance to do that nowadays. The residing artists have access to bicycles which I took advantage of a few times. It was wonderful to bike along the Danube.

During my residency period the IMAGO DEI festival was also happening and I've visited three amazing concerts, one of which was by a project of a fellow artist in residence Steve Bates, a sound artist from Canada. Other artists who were at the AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, are: Moki a painter and comic book artist from Germany, Svetlana a writer from Slovakia, and Shaahin a painter and his assistant Leila from Iran. I'm very happy that during this month I could get to know all of them. We've talked and visited events together. They are very lovely people. And I hope this is not the last time I'm meeting them.

I'm very thankful for the New Budapest Gallery (HU) and the AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Krems program for making this possible.

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Some of the projects I've realized during the residency:

a safe idea (2018, Krems) photo



kétoldalas kép / *double sided picture* (2018, Krems) action + photo



inviting change (2018 Krems) object

