

AIR artist-in-residence
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Object : AIR Krems Report

By this letter i'd like to inform you of the result that i obtained according to the Artistic Residences that i was able to made in Krems on the month of Mai 2011. I was invited to realise a new Visual and Sound installation in the small room call Kapitelsaal (a part of the church named Minoritenkirche).

During the time i was waiting to come to Krems in order to create this new Installation i reflect and made different kind of research in order to be tuned with this new space and also tuned with the activity related to this particular space. During my reflection it became clear that this Kapitelsaal certainly have a strong identity and energie. As we probably all know, a church is a special and particular space (either for a spiritual and religious person then for a non religious one).

So having that in mind i deceide to work on a project which will use a new Musical instrument of mine that i call « le Mini Tu-Yo Telescopique » (or in english, tha Small Mini Telescopic Tube). It is a very simple instruments made in 2 parts. One that i call the vibrating parts (or the sound generator) and the second one that i call the resonator. In this specific case the Resonator is telescopic witch mean's that with the same Tube i can generate different tones and glissandi which give to the instruments a special potential (something close to the Trombone).

I deceide to work with this instruments for 2 reasons. One is because it's principle of vibrating mode is really close to an Organ (wind instruments working with a machine who give air continuously) and as we all know, molst of the organ on the world are set in a Church. The second reason is the sound quality delivered by those telescopic instruments witch bring a kind of meditative and immersive atmosphere in the space where it is set. Behing able to welcome people in a space where they can come to relax, think, reflect, walk, listen, dream, fly, etc was one of the goal leading me for the realisation of this installation.

So after having deceide to work with those instruments i wanted to found a title that can express what i wanted to share, or let's say, what was my questioning during i was working on that project. I finaly choose the totle **Vibes**, witch mean's different thing's. of course it is related to the term Vibration witch lead's directly to sound and music. The second one was the « Vibes » that we can feel (a good or a bad vibes) when we enter in a space. It also talk about the energie related to different space, like a church who's alway's accompany by a certain kind of vibes.

This is how i work before arriving to Krems for the Artistic Residences. Then i come to Krems in the begening of mai in order to bring the musical instrument and all the gear that **Vibes** need to work properly. It was a very great moments for me when i enter for the first time in the Kapitelsaal. I immediatly found the space warm

and very welcoming. Also i was happy to find a not too big and not too small space with work's perfectly for the kind of ideas that i had in mind.

When i arrive in Krems, the installation was not completely finished. As always in my work's, i found very important to be in the space where my work is presented and take time to feel this space. The idea's is to build a work specifically for each space, using all the possibility that a space can offer in terms of volume, lighting, space, way of circulating, etc. Those characteristics have a real incidence on the sound possibility and the sound quality result. Each space, according to their volume, had a specific tones and harmonies. And when it's possible to tune a work's with the specific tones of the space, the result is much more rich in terms of harmonics, brilliance, warmth, etc.

So during my artistic residences i pass about a week to analyse the space, feel it by walking inside, looking to the architectural aspect of the space (the starway, the column in the middle, the 4 Arches on the ceiling, the 2 big windows on one side, the big door on the other side, etc. In that week's i found that the major frequencies of the Kapitelsaal is around D1 (so something close to 88 Hz).

I decide then to build some musical chords based on these frequencies. I tried different ones and choose few that were perfect for the musical parts that i wanted to compose. Basically i choose a Major chord and a minor chord (plus some variation). Based on those chords i build a musical path which showed the relation between the sound generated and the response from the Kapitelsaal. The vibration generated by the tubes of different lengths create a powerful, space-filling sound that differs depending on the place that the listener takes. Constant bass frequencies create powerful and changing sound textures in the space. Sometimes a few steps or a movement of the head already suffice in order to bring about a completely new sound environment.

In order to let the visitor appreciate and taste fully this sound experience i install a couple of comfortable chairs where it's possible to sit and let the body relax. That permits the ears of the listener to travel inside the sound and let his brain fly and dream. Then, a fascinating, acoustic as well as visual work related to the space results, in which the visitor can embark on a journey to find new tones in a peaceful environment.

About the Artistic Residences.

The Artistic residence was perfect and a great way for me to realise this specific project. The space to live is well equipped and big enough to work inside the living space which is really great when it's time to continue to work a little more before going to bed (for example).

Being able to come in a place and work for a while on a specific project for a specific space is really important. It makes a big difference with other situations where we enter in the exhibition space only a day or 2 before the presentation to the public.

In those cases it is more difficult to specifically work for a space in particular and adapt a work according to a space. In Krems that was completely possible and that makes a big difference. I really enjoy to work in the Kapitelsaal.

Having a month to tunes my new installation call *Vibes* for the Kapitelsaal was a great experiences. I founded very stimulated to go in the Kapitelsaal day after day and founding solution for each step and for each challenge. At the end i can say that my work's was really enrich by the possibility to work closely with the space where it was exhibit.

I thank the AIR Artist in Residences programme for this great opportunity that was gived to me and just hope that it will be possible to come back for an other new project in the futur.

Thank you again for every thing's and all the best for the AIR Krems.

Jean-François Laporte
Visual & Sound Artist.