

AIR. Juan Pablo Villa. 2-29/07/2011

Hello my name is Juan Pablo Villa from Mexico City, one of the biggest cities in the world. So you can imagine the contrast when I arrived to Krems. So peaceful, full of nature and of course good food, apricots and delicious white wine. Beautiful people I met there and I am grateful for all we shared.

I arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July to AIR Krems and left on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The project I worked on during my artistic residence is called 'Diablo' and it is basically a voice solo using extended vocal techniques in spaces with big resonance. The reason of 'Diablo' name is because I am working in a deep human process with myself and with a very contrasting voice sounds, looking for more possibilities of this wonderful instrument. Sounds, some of them very dark, some of them very bright as my life. It is a fight between what I need and what I have to get rid of it in order to balance my energy. How to make music out of this.

I use this artistic residence to develop and structure this project or piece I being thinking from several months ago. The result is a thirty minute piece using overtones, multifunctions, voice percussion, extended register, in and out breathing sounds, crack voice and melodic parts singing normally. Working with ideas and images influenced by the glosolalia, xenoglosia, exorcism, and transmutation. The contrast between these ideas that may be dark and the light in between. During this period I was influenced mostly by the work of the writers Jorge Luis Borges and Niko Kazantsakis, the music of Demetrio Stratos, Diamanda Galas, Le Monde, Cage, Mike Patton, Fatima Miranda, Julio Estrada and Theo Bleckmann, and the black paintings of Goya.

### First week

I divided my days in a very easy but effective way. In the morning voice warm up inside the flat working in the space and with the piano. Because my instrument is the voice I could really go anywhere and work with it. During this week the places to work were the Danube with my yellow bike, and my flat (oh I miss so much).

During lunch time I cooked and think about the sounds to develop. During the afternoon I tried the sounds and during the evening, perhaps after meeting with friends or riding in the mountains, try the new sounds thinking in the creative process. I painted ideas, sang ideas, watched ideas, and read ideas. I began a recording process to listen to the little studios developed so far.

I began to listen the concerts of Glatt und Verkehrt Festival (so good).

### Second week

This week I taught in the music workshop in Stift Göttweig. The people there were very fine musicians, students and professionals. The experience was amazing in two aspects, one, the opportunity to share with other people the voice through extended vocal techniques and some traditional songs from Mexico, and two because I could confront the sounds of the project and use several spaces with big resonance to keep working on Diablo. The contrast between being in a monastery and working with this project was delicious.

### Third week

Back in my flat I began to order all the ideas into big sheets of paper all over the flat using color markers so I could see all the time the structure, the ideas, the cue words to order all this magnificent sounds that can make the voice but thinking in music, otherwise it would be only a

catalogue of possibilities without any meaning. I focus myself into pulse, melodic parts, intention of the piece. I began to make little rehearsals of parts of the piece and focusing on the fourth week recordings.

Forth week

I was invited to make the artistic residence as well as performing in the Glatt und Verkehrt Festival with a quartet called Meia da Shonta conformed by Fernando Viguera on guitar and electronics, Francisco Bringas on percussion and voice, Mardonio Carballo on poetry and myself in voice and electronics. The band arrived and we travelled to Czech Republic to perform on the Folkové Prazdniny Náměst 2011. These days back in Krems I made the two recordings of the project in the Minoritenkirche. A 30 minute piece to be performed at the beginning of 2012 in Mexico City and abroad.

Next days I took part of the Glatt und Verkehrt Festival performing in Sandgrube 13, main stage of the festival with the Mexican ensemble Meia da Shonta. A perfect way to close the residence cycle.

During this four weeks I could appreciate some art in the museums of the city, beautiful architecture and cultural points in the city and other cities around. I could appreciate the excellent food and wine. The very fine musicians performing during the festival. The beautiful people I met there could make me feel very clear and open to new feelings and new ideas. The only thing I did not like is the short time for keeping working and enjoying the artistic residence.

I really loved the space in my flat, the people, the landscape and soundscape, the weather, the food. AIR at Krems is a perfect environment to create, share and enjoy.