

MILIJANA ISTIJANOVIĆ

AIR KREMS REPORT 2011 - 2012

After two months I came back to my hometown. The impression is still floating. I love a moment when are two kind of nostalgia present. It is nice to come back to familiar smell of home, energy of loved people and in the same time it's mixed with nostalgia of new experience. The feeling of arriving, departure and unavoidable nostalgic in both situations have strong mark in my life, therefore, on my work.

During my stay in Krems I had a opportunity to work on continue with series of drawings "Self-conception", with large and small format. Everyday life in a new town is important to my work. The challenge was to conquer new space.

I brought many questions about belonging and ephemeral. View through my studio apartment at the big clock on the opposite building (which is ex women's monastery and today is a men's prison), view of the Danube, the brightness inside a space, meeting with a new situations and inner adventures- are confirmation of feeling a space and time. And finally it was started daily life.

The work was concentrated on drawings.

I'm constantly thinking of topics related to man and its manifestations, finality, inescapability, body and material existence, about phenomenon of self-perception, world perception and inner world view. The subject of my research, based on a fact that we all have to consider in detail ourselves, is my personal problem area, as conscious being and as a self-observer. I put my own manifestations into absolute space and time and think about energy of space itself, about layers of time, about myself.

My artistic work is followed by intimate contemplations, it is a reflection of my own reality and imaginary inner worlds.

The relates of the real and the represented, the real and unreal, perception and imagination, material and immaterial, subject and object are categories that should be able to visualize and so we visualize a personal intimacy of a human being, I- being, and make it real.

If on its own as an imaginary vision, we can talk about real based on their own or starting from the same. I'm not talking about fantasies taken in the sphere of the impossible, unreal, but I'm trying to find the answers to the relation realistic and one's own.

I design my own world according to its inner rules. And they are created from something external, too.

I could not think of my own world and that the space is not compared to real world. Own and really do not transform, but only as these are mutually intertwined, rename and adapt.

Man is embedded in space, takes up space, that space belongs to him.

I have started to materialize my self-perceptions, to study my portrait, my physical body, set of lines, surface, soaked lavir. My drawings were not just real images of my portrait but they become a psychological study of static face. Each new drawing was my other Self.

During this process of self-creation, I have started from my own being, my face, my state of mind, but always with an invisible and automatic wish to create portraits of all people, because we all experience the same or similar state of mind. Static form includes inner concentration and sense of self-perception. Drawing is a materialization of an imaginary world, evidence of experienced reality, self-observation, self-love and self-hatred. Mirror-shadow reality, shadow mirror-drawing.

One of the most precious situations I carry from Krems is a new experience that will certainly reflect on my future work. There was one situation which followed me in Montenegro, and the same was repeated in Krems. During stay it was happened similar, but new situation, equally strong. I still do not know what to do with these feelings, but it's very strong and for now that is enough for me.

From this point of view, I had everything what I need at that moment in Krems residence - beautiful studio apartment, enough money, enough isolation, enough space for work. I came here in a period when I should actually need studio time to focus on my own work and research, without any pressure of deadlines, exhibition preparation etc. So I had really relax time to thinking, working and a good start to continue my project.

Karin, Sabine and Elke provide all stay comfortable, they specially took care for Christmas atmosphere. I met nice fellows here. Everyone had their privacy and also we had often dinner together, walking, christmas's tree decoration...

December and January are holiday months, and perhaps not the best for the residence, but I believe that every time spent in some place is useful experience and carries some message, even simple ones. It's only need to be enough awake and keep things.

It was a great honor for me to take part in this beautifully organized residence.

I would like to say thank you to all the people from the organization, especially to Karin and Sabine for all kind support.