

REPORT ON THE RESIDENCY

Milan Jesih, writer-in-residence, July 2015

How was the residency?

It was great.

First, of course, about people. Before arrival, I had some friendly correspondence with Mr. Wolfgang Kühn. He sent me very detailed instructions how to come to Krems and came to meet me at the railway station. I had the honour to get acquainted with ladies Sabine, Bettina and Katharina who made living in the house more homelike, and were all the time very attentive and ready to help at any item in every moment.

The studio is well equipped both for work and for comfortable leisure and reading (and cooking). To feel safe in any case guests find all the necessary data on their table (with the plan of the city). – By the way, connection to internet is perfect.

(Even on extremely hot days, the huge fan makes the temperature sustainable.)

Advantages and disadvantages of AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE.

Generally, as my experience says, every change is stimulative, every new sensation in some way opens our mind and widens our sensibility; if at the same time one has good conditions for work and all the time of the world (and of course some of that mysterious inner power that no one dares to name inspiration) then there must be some results, not necessarily immediate ones. It is also stimulating to meet co-residents, people from other parts of the world. Also walking around brings new sensations to be stored up, and maybe used some day in future: there are plenty of nice, interesting places in the city and near surroundings. Disadvantages? – I can't see any.

What did you realize during your residency period?

I wrote, or better: drafted some poems and some paragraphs of an essay. (More below.)

What did you miss at the residency? I didn't miss anything.

What do you appreciate at AIRARTIST IN RESIDENCE?

I do appreciate the technical circumstances (yet we, the writing nation, do not need much), but above all, I was enraptured with the general hospitality of the house.

Furthermore please add all data of your projects which you realized during your residence including up to three images.

I have been working on a book of poems; it is going to be different from my former books in a way that poems are not completely independent, they refer to each other, they are, in fact, fragments of one single image of an imaginary world of my subject's childhood. (Bizarre memories of a boy whose mother was an 'official' dancer (and maybe a mistress) to a mighty person's named never otherwise than the marshal, so a Slovenian reader can't avoid the real social and political associations. The marshal has some divine and some hell attributes, he is being adored and cursed ... and all what fancy brings funny or lyrical, it can lead to simple limerick-like or to a 'transcendental' end. The length of poems is up to thirty lines, strictly written in iambs, and rhyming.) In Krems I wrote some fifteen poems; they are, of course, still to be polished and finalized, but the majority of work is done with drafts, later on the work will be only pleasure.

Closely connected with such a kind of poetry, I have been writing an essay pleading for light verse which had been neglected, or even scorned in Slovenian poetic practice for decades. The essay is supposed to be an introduction to some two dozens genre poems and songs (on wine, die schöne Wirtin, toasts, on limericks, epigrams ..., I am sure we miss in our national métier). So I find the days spent in Krems extremely fruitful, to compare them with three or four weeks at home.

So let me at the end express my deep gratefulness for the opportunity to work and live under your roof — to all of you, to dear people I got acquainted with, to Unabhängiges Literaturhaus NÖ, Kunstmeile Krems, and higher authorities that enable the residence. Let me take leave with best wishes and remain yours!

Milan Jesih