



Photographic montag of a street sign I found in in the historical city of Stein with the logo of my book. Photo: Nils Oskamp

DREI STEINE IN STEIN

„THREE STONES IN STEIN“

REPORT BY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE NILS OSKAMP

FEBRUARY 10TH 2015 TO MARCH 30TH 2015



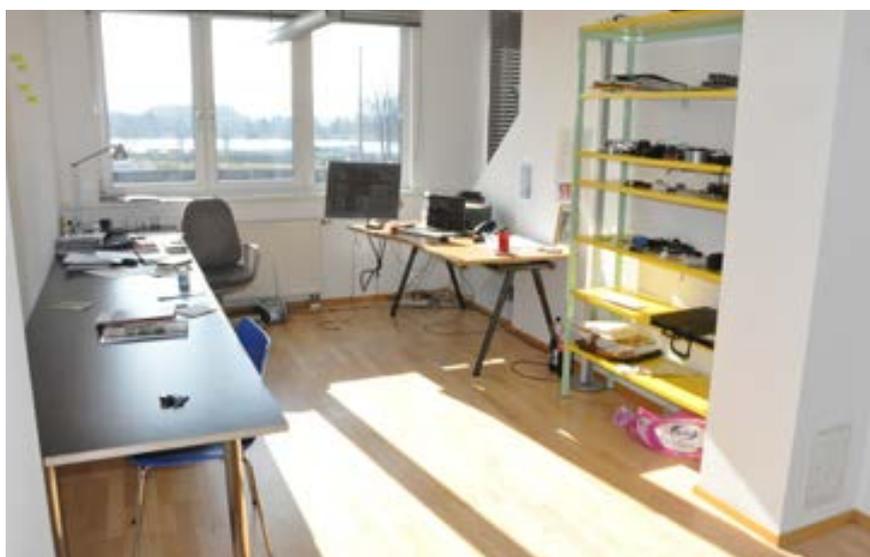
Steiner Landstraße 3. Photo: Nils Oskamp

I immediately started to work: Here, in studio 20, the silence helps the productivity a lot. A wonderful place out of the world to work creative.

Before i came here i read about the „Kremser Rabbit Hunt“ which took place in the jail of Stein in April 1945 when Nazis massacred a number of political prisoners and resistance fighters. There is a reference to this incident in my book „Three Stones“ where i put a stone to the holocaust memorial „Yad Vashem“ in remembrance to the resistant fighters.

Dear reader, you may wonder what the strange title of this report means. The project which i am working on in Krems is my Graphic Novel „Drei Steine“ which translates as „Three Stones“ in English.

I started traveling from Hamburg with my cat Jerry and my fiancée Maria. On the way we met with the programmer and designer“ of the homepage of „Drei Steine“ in southern Bavaria. Near Radstadt in Salzburg county I was happy to see again my first drawing mentor. He also visited me later at AIR Krems. I began learning to draw in Austria at the age of five. When we arrived it was winter, now when i write this report, it is a wonderful spring time day in Wachau. Sabine helped to unload the car. In the first day i build up my Studio with the nice view over the Danube river and Gottweig monastery.



My atelier in AIR Krems Photo: N.Oskamp

In the first four weeks i worked hardly to finish one important scene in my book. It is a scene with my best friend Thomas. This 9 pages i made complete here in Krems. IAt the same time I set up the website for the book with my screen designer. You can find it here: www.dreisteine.com .

Sabine was happy to meet Jerry, I always take my cat with me when I go downstairs to the AIR office.

On the day before the vernissage i met Guillermo Mordillio in front of the Karrikatur Museum, he asked me about our crazy Job as an comic artist. I said „quite intersting and weird sometimes“.

On the vernissage, when interviewed regarding the „Charly Hebdo“ terror attack, Mordillo made a nice remark, which I will never forget: **„Humor is the tenderness of fear - Humor ist die Zärtlichkeit der Angst“.**

Nearly one month after i arrived i had a presentation of my book iat the Leipzig book fair. I was invited by Dr. Bernd Zabel the director of literature of [Goethe Institut](http://www.goetheinstitut.de), who interviewed me on stage there. We hold the podium together. One day later I went back to Krems to continue the work on my book, about my trip to Yad Vashem in Israel, which will be the epilogue of my story.

Simultaneously I worked on the layout of the book with my colleague Marian MeinhardtMeinhardt, using a cloud based online system. My team, the the screen-designer in Bavaria, the layouter in Dresden, the author of the journalistic article in my book in Berlin and the animator of my trailer in Hamburg. They were all connected with me and my work here in Krems.

In my spare time I took walks in Stein, Kunstmeile and Wache and took fotos. Lajos Parti Nagy, my first drawing mentor, my fiancée Maria and me also went to the „Heurigen“ Meyer-Resh Lajos Parti Nagi wrote a short recommendation for my book.

On Sunday, March 22nd we went to to the Nextcomic festival in Linz. There i had my presentation on the the event „Suuper Sunday“. The audience at this event was immensely interested and afterwards a ORF journalist came to me and expressed her motivation to make a reportage about the book once it is published next year. At final i visited the other expos at the festival. One exhibition was shown at the ARS ELECTRONICA center in Linz. This center impress me very much. From Linz we went back in Salzburg county to visit family friends. It is where I initially started drawing, there is my refuge. There I also started to combine visual arts with literatur which many years later led me to the graphic novel I´m working on today.

Reference quote to my book from my AIR Krems neighbour Lajos

„In diesem Europa, in dem man vom Nazismus noch immer nicht in der Vergangenheitsform sprechen kann, wo der Rassismus, die rechtsextreme Brutalität ihre Opfer einmal hier, einmal da fordern, hat sich Nils Oskamp in bewundernswerter Weise mit leidenschaftlichem persönlichen Einsatz der politischen Arbeit verschrieben. Ich bin kein Sachverständiger für Comics und auch kein Comic-Fan, als Leser hingegen halte ich dieses Buch für ein bravouröses und mit Kunstfleiß gezeichnetes Werk. Seine bittere Grundfrage, wie man überleben kann, wie man für das Überleben kämpfen kann, ohne selbst zum Täter zu werden, ist bis heute aktuell, und ich bin mir sicher, sie wird die Halbwüchsigen, die jungen und nicht mehr so jungen Erwachsenen, die Nils Oskamps Graphic Novel zur Hand nehmen, zutiefst bewegen.“

Lajos Parti Nagy



Jerry watch over my work. Photo: N.Oskamp

We go back from Radstadt to Krems with the open cabriolet, we saw the wonderful mountains, historical places and the Wachau in spring.

During my residency I made massive progress with the whole „Drei Steine“ project: Now there´s a book which will be published soon and a website that´s up and running. But most importantly the AIR Krems gave me as an artists freedom to be insipired and develop ideas. I could reconnect with old family friends in Austria. Here in Krems Graphic Novel is respected as an art form and literature.

How was the residency?

During my residence i could take good care of my book project. I made great progress and found a new drawing style which I will use for finishing the book. After years I met old friends again. With the nice view from my working place in the studio over the Danube river I enjoyed every day.

Advantages and disadvantages of AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE.

The great advantages are that you find everything around, you get inspired by the cultural scene of Krems and Vienna. In the apartments you find a great silence and focus on your project.

Sabine Güldenfuß does a great job. You just have to ask and you will get help and information immediately. I really can not find any disadvantage.



Gottfried Gusenbauer, Director of the Karikatur-Museum at the pre-opening of the Mordillo exposition 06.03.2015 Photo: Nils Oskamp



Landeshauptmann of Niederösterreich Erwin Pröll, Guillermo Mordillo and Manfred Deix at Karikaturmuseum Krems 07.03.2015 Photo: Nils Oskamp

What do you appreciate at AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE?

Photography is one of my hobbies, here in Krems and specially in the old village of Stein I found an inspiring scenery I took many pictures of. In the evenings the Wachau has a special light about it, which in combination with the old historic buildings is a great pleasure to photograph.

I also appreciate very much the good expos and the good readings in Literaturhaus Niederösterreich. It was a great honor to meet Guillermo Mordillo. I also learn a lot here in Austria about the topic of my comic and the difference of this between Germany and Austria. „Drei Steine“ is about the radical neonazi violence and racism. Austria is a state you with 8 million inhabitants and one million of this

are immigrants. The structures of neonazis here in Austria are not that strong because of the „Verbotsgesetz“. This is a particular law which criminalizes any Nazi activity and is surprisingly strict. I wish we had a law like this in Germany. A lot of murders and other crimes would not have happened.

What did you miss at the residency?

In the first weeks there was still a problem with the internet. The sending of files was nearly impossible. At that time I was working with a team in Germany and it would have been helpful if long-distance called on the landline here had been possible. In the end I managed with payment on Skype. I also miss an oven in the kitchen. But I created a special kind of goulash which i called „Kremser Topf“. And everything you need for it for it is available in the supermarket behind the house.

I finally missed my son Tom but i had my cat Jerry with me.



Dr. Bernd Zabel, Director of literature Goethe Institut and Nils Oskamp at a podium presentation on Leipzig Book Fair 12.03.2015 Photo: Bernd Roloff

What did you realize during your residency period?

So here 's the progress I made on the „Drei Steine“-project at AIR Krems:

- 20 pages drawn
- layout of cover and inside pages
- website www.dreisteine.com
- Facebook profile of my book www.facebook.com/dreisteine
- animated trailer, on the homepage of „Drei Steine“
- more than 400 fotos, online gallery <http://adobe.ly/19TDdQ8> please use Firefox)
- 4 pages of text for my book.
- presentation in Leipzig book fair as an podium discussion (Video online soon)
- presentation using projected images, slides and video at Linz comic festival. (Video online soon)
- a blog article about „Drei Steine“ by Lucie Täubler on www.diekremserin.blogspot.co.at
- an article on the most important internet page about Graphic Novels www.graphic-novel.info by Christian Maiwald

This may sound like a lot, but i was not alone in this. Thank you my team in Germany.

The residence here gave me the opportunity to great progress in the production process, even a serious start to get my book published. First it will be published end of april in a short version at the [Amadeu Antonio Stiftung](http://www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.at) and later in early 2016 the whole story will be published by Panini Comics.

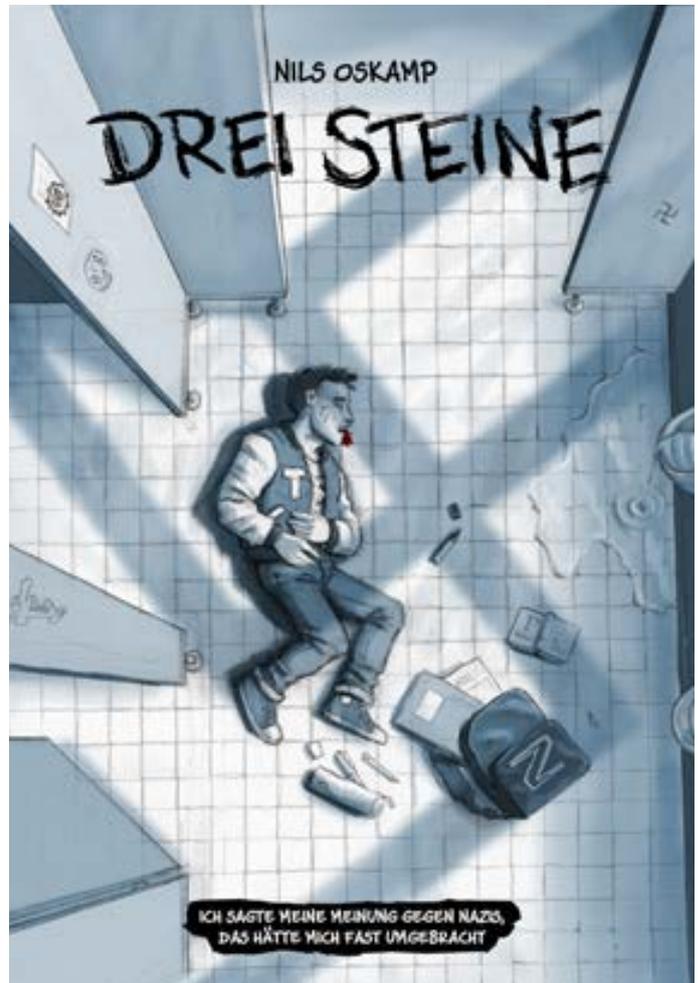
After publishing at [Panini Comics](http://www.panini.com) i will try my best to bring my expo to Austria as well.

thanks Krems

Nils Oskamp



Nextcomic-Festival in Linz, „Drei Steine“ presentation on 22.03.2015 Photo: Maria Zarada



Cover of „Drei Steine“ by Nils Oskamp



Mordillo-Comic-Walk on the prison wall of Stein Photo: Nils Oskamp



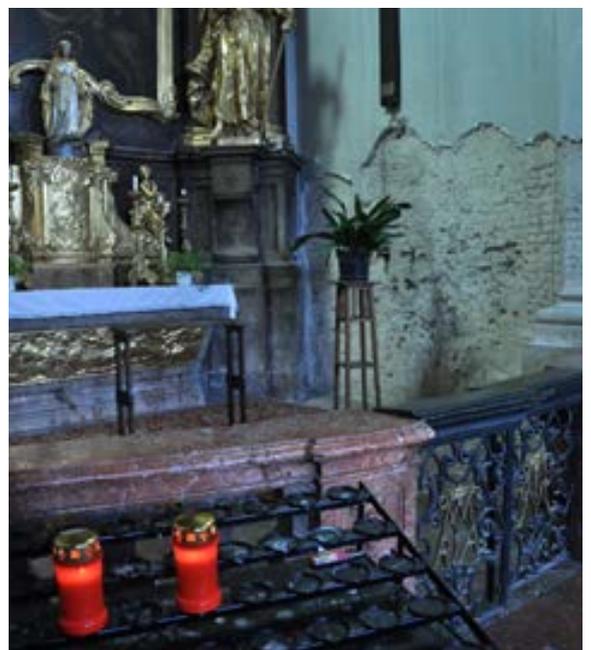
Some places in Stein look like a movie set. Photo: Nils Oskamp



Sunset over Danube at Dürnstein. Photo: Nils Oskamp



„Drei Steine“ at work in Stein. Photo: Nils Oskamp



My aunt and the father of my best friend passed away during my residency R.I.P. Photo: Nils Oskamp, St Nicolaus Stein



Dürnstein Castle. Photo: Nils Oskamp



Menoriten Platz Stein. Photo: Nils Oskamp