

Report : Inès Lisser - architect, urban planner, cultural mediator

AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, June-July 2023

How was the residency?

The residency was wonderful. I would warmly recommend it to any artist looking for the right time & space frame to develop a project in great working conditions.

The minimalism style of the studio spaces is perfect to also get quality headspace and feel inspired to work. Being all residents on the same floor also made it easier to get to know each other and have a living in community feeling while having the comfort of a real personal space fully furnished.

Living in Krems and so close to the majestic Danube and beautiful Wachau villages and vineyards was a dreamy environment that provided me great inspiration. I appreciated a lot having access to the bikes to explore the surroundings and take a step back from work in the nature. I was also very glad to discover the austrian way of life and the people I met in Krems were really welcoming and especially curious about the art projects produced in the residency framework.

Having AIR & ORTE support to stay in Krems during two months allowed me to develop in situ practices -an extended field study and a collaborative tour- that I could hardly have time to experiment elsewhere. Having a background mainly in architecture offices, the residency frame gave me space to question in a much broader way what roles could architects take on the field.

Investigating alone during two intensive months the issue of "Leerstand" (vacancy) was challenging in many ways but I appreciated a lot the trust of AIR & ORTE team and the great freedom they allowed in the formulation, elaboration and restitution form of the project. I'm also deeply thankful for the unconditional support of Heidrun Schlögl -head of ORTE- who gave me great insights, local contacts and encouragements any time needed.

List of all projects, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, events etc. that you realized or participated in during your residency

Projects and events realized :

- **June - July 2023 / a two months field study** around the "Leerstand" (vacancy) issue. I spent these two months investigating around Leerstand in groundfloors and showcases in Krems with also some NÖ and viennese inputs. Strolling, documenting, meeting many local actors and gathering datas to map and try to convey the complexity of the subject were my main activities. I tried to gather the many different stakes and parameters locally involved in the vacancy issue to bring an informed discussion around this sensible topic that cross many disciplines and expertises.
- **22.07.23 / a collaborative tour** around the Landstrasse adressing the topic of "Leerstand" in ground floors and showcases. All participants were given a folding map with the itinerary and a summary of all issues that will be discussed site specificly. The tour was held in German and English and everyone took actively part in the discussions. The group was very heterogeneous, from children to senior people and both international residents artists and local people (Kremser, NÖ and Wiener) participated and made the exchanges very rich. After discussing the different topics on site we occupied -with prior authorization- an empty shop on the Landrassse to continue the lively exchanges with wine coming from a local restaurant.

- **29.07.23 / foundation of the artist collective In the Middle of Nowhere** together with Christian Berkes, Sid Fiore Branca, Adam Greteman, Inès Lisser, Désirée Saarela, Laurynas Skeisgiela, Sophie Wohlgemuth.
- **05.10.23 / upcoming solo exhibition** in the Walter Zschokke library and pocket gallery. The opening will start with a discussion around the “Leerstand” topic to adress the issue with local actors in a constructive and prospective way.

<https://orte-noe.at/medien/presseinformation-eroeffnung-leerstand-entmystifizieren-eine-feldstudie-ueber-die-kremser-innenstadt-von-ines-licher>

Events I attended :

- **19.06.23 / Treffen der Kulturplattform Krems** in der Steiner Landstrasse
- **21.06.23 / Raumgreifend e.V Treffung** in der Galerie Daliko
- **26.06.23 / Zwischennutzung walk** by the city of Vienna - visiting transitional projects in previous vacant places in Ottakring district (Vienna).
- **26.06.23 / Anne Lacaton conference, talk and screening** in the Akademie der Bildenden Künste (Vienna)
- **29.06.23 / Opening of the exhibition “Verweben” by Christina Kubisch** in the Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche
- **29.06.23 / Opening of the exhibtion “Soft Core” by Christiane Peschek** in the Museum Krems
- **07.07.23 / Opening of the exhibtion “Intermediate” by Doris Piwonka** in the Stadtpark Galerie
- **08.07.23 / Sophie Wohlgemuth & Christian Berkes performative dinner** in the Walter Zschokke library
- **20.07.23 / Sophie Wohlgemuth & Christian Berkes screening** in the Walter Zschokke library
- **27.07.23 / Désirée Saarela concert** for Glatt & Verkehrt Festival
- **28.07.23 / Private visit of Museum Krems by Gregor Kremser** for the artists in residence

Events attended after residency time :

- **05.08.23 / Book presentation & city strolling by Christian Berkes, Janine Sack and Sophie Wohlgemuth** in the Walter Zschokke library
- **28.08.23 / Sandile Radebe performative dinner** in AIR top 25 studio