

3 PLANS, 5 TREES

I have been a writer-in-residence at the AIR of Krems in February 2017. In other years it is one of the worst months, but not this year. It is a freedom to be and work here. My studio is very comfortable and the river view I can enjoy while I am writing (or stop it) is nice, and it connects me with my home. Because I can see a piece of the Danube there too. When I arrived at Krems I could not see the monostory on the opposite side of the Danube. First, because of the fog. And when it after five days disappeared, because of the trees. Now I can see the building on the top of the hill very clearly, because today they cut 5 nice trees down near the river. It was sad to see the dying trees.

I had plans, of course, on what to do. In situations like this I always end up doing something else, but now I had to do what I planned.

In the residency period I worked on two new plays: firstly, a play about the Hungarian history in the second part of the 19. century including the relationship between Hungary and Austria. Of course it is not an essay, but I tried to play with historical figures. We can say, it is a play about life and future in Hungary today, but not in newspaper style. It is about ideas, as always, if you write something about important things. And what is not important? In literature the smallest things can be very important. One of the best hungarian poems is for example about a dream of a butterfly.

And now we are at the second plan. To write a collection of poems, which consist poetry variations and paraphrases on the best hungarian poems. Poems, what are in the schoolbooks, and because of that, they are not loved enough, maybe for students often boring. I try to change the poetical language but use metrum system and rhymes etc. I spoke about it on the meeting with other stipendists. I wrote 77 pages of poetry here until yet, 40 new poems. Including a new version of the previously mentioned poem about the butterfly. In this Jesus has a dream, in which he changes into an animal. A horse.

Of course it can be too much too, if it is not good enough. I am working on it 24 hours a day, not to be so.

And I started to think about the second play. It is about a suburb of Budapest. Heavy problem, how to dramatise a part of a town. The play started to move. I think I could finish it in the rest of my residency.

Altogether I found the place very inspiring and the circumstances were good. A friendly space to think about literature. Krems is ideal town to work and a good reason not to work sometimes. I went on excursions and bicycle trips along the Danube, I fell in love first with Stein, and then with Dürnstein, I am also very thankful for the reading in Vienna organized by the Literaturhaus.