

MicroResidency Meeting in Kyoto

Julia de bierre, Garelie Huit, Arles, France

Participating in the Artist-in-Residency forum in Kyoto was an unexpectedly enthralling and fulfilling experience. Here's why :

I've been running an Artist-in-Residency programme in Arles, France since 2008. However, until Kyoto 2019 I never had the opportunity to meet other colleagues running residencies and so I really appreciated exchanging ideas with my peers from around the world, learning from what they were doing in their residencies and, hopefully, also contributing to this global conversation.

The main ResArtis forum was interesting and informative. Participants were convivial, which meant that during lunch and tea breaks the forum continued in an informal way. Although unfamiliar with the term 'MicroResidency' I signed up for the eponymous workshop largely because I assumed that it had relevance to my own small residency.

In fact , the workshop was a revelation !

I had always felt somewhat grandiose using the term 'Artist-in-Residence ' to describe my special welcome for individual artists at Galerie Huit Arles. I believed that most successful residencies accomodated many artists at a time. In Kyoto, I discovered this is not always the case. Thanks to the Microresidency workshop I found my niche , a validation for my 'Small is Beautiful' ethos and , most importantly, a network of like-minded comrades.

On the last day, an invitation to participate in the 'MicroResidency Meeting' was a privilege. The setting was a wonderful surprise – the Koshoji Temple. My very first visit to Japan and here I was, giving a short presentation with translation for a mainly Japanese audience, followed by a Q & A seated on elegant traditional mats. A world away from the usual anonymous conference hall....

I was sorry to leave the beautiful city of Kyoto. I returned to France full of inspiration and ideas of how to to bring a fresh new dynamic to what I now proudly call a 'Micro-Residency'

I look forward to meeting my fellow participants at future forums .

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