

Mkrkich Tonoyan, My own report.

Res Artis Meetings...

ACOSS international artist-in-residence has been member of Res Artis since 2008. The same year I participated in the Res Artis General Meeting in Amsterdam and it was life changing experience, opening new perspectives in development of our residency center. First of all, I joined to a very important network for me and met people who became later very important connections. I made also very good friends, dedicated to the concept of residency and hospitality. And that time I met also co-founders and co-directors of Youkobo Art Space Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Muratas. A link, that directly is connected with my participation in the *ResArtis Meeting 2019 Kyoto on 6, 7, 8 February at the KAC*

Long time after that I couldn't attend any of Res Artist meetings and many changes happened in the office as well so it was very important for my professional development and for our organization to be present in the ResArtis Meeting 2019 in Kyoto and tell our microresidence developing storirs to colleagues and hear their stories and renew connections for future cooperation. That became availed with help and support of my friends in Youkobo Art Space and Res Artis team.

Trip to Kyoto

It was nice and nostalgic for me flying to Japan for the 3rd time and I am looking forward to see my friends there, say hello and just say "Ohio gozaimasu" and smile with them. It is always nice to travel when you know that in the destination there are people who is waiting for you, that you have a family and home there. You have your Art Space there-Youkobo Art Spce, my home in Tokyo.

When I arrived we had nice diner in Youkobo with 2 other visiting artists from Australia and Spain and afterwards short preparation for the next day early morning "Shinkansen" trip to Kyoto. Everything is very Japanese, tradition and high technologies coexistence together... Nice to be back... We had very smooth and happy train ride to Kyoto, having time to work in the train, make a "micro" discussion meeting, preparing for the biggest meeting and even we had time for memory, to chat a bit about future plans snooze a bit and enjoy beautiful panorama of Fujiyama.

We got Kyoto and directly went to a meeting with a new established artists' runs space, microresidence ANWEL GALLERY. Besides being a partner they also were our host in Kyoto. We were accommodated in their residency center for the community, in a traditional Japanese house. It was my the 2nd time in Kyoto and nice to be as an artist in residence in an art space where people are doing the same you do at home, have the same concern and motivation you have at home. The 1st time I visited Kyoto in 2015 to research "microresidence" landscape there, as part of my research trip and was staying in another Microresidence house, Yoshuga. Nice to be back and see more artists' runs spaces are rising in Kyoto.

ResArtis Meeting 2019 Kyoto on 6, 7, 8 February at the KAC

ResArtis Meeting has very actual content, with difference observations of growing and developing Artists' Residency institutions in world, showing difference viewpoints, motivations and drives of initiations. All presentations were very interesting, actual and educative. It was hosted and organized by Kyoto Art Center, where a number of dedicated team members worked on it doing their best to have as great impact as possible both for the city and participants. It was very important for me as a director of the ACOSS International AIR to have an opportunity making slide talk, presenting developing stage of our organization and future plans. There were so many interesting concepts of small scale residency initiations, which just came to confirm that there was no standard model of a residency, it is endless like the imagination of a man. It was just exiting for me as a practicing artist also to see that someone in Israel was doing the something similar for the community and art, another "dreamer" had made an art space on the container ship sailing with artists loving such extreme situation stimulating creativity and other residency program was established in disaster area, where almost all city was washed away by zunami and survivals where living in temporary houses and visiting artists were sharing that situation and challenges with them. Me, personally joint to the Microresidence workshop, but I had curiosity to the other

seasons as well, unfortunately couldn't join them because there were running at the same time just in another room. It was important also for me to see growing interest in Microresidencies, it is the category that our residency belongs to. During the meeting I learnt more about operating and new established residencies in Japan feeding my research about it.

What I got from that meeting- learnt about new residencies worldwide, met new colleagues, found partners with mutual interest in developing collaborative projects in the future and felt myself as a full member of worldwide network of Artist-in-Residence community.

Microresidence Meeting 2019 Kyoto on 9 and 10 February at the KOSHO-JI Temple, NISHIJIN

When in 2012 I was invited by Tatsuhiko Murata to joint to studying the concept of "microresidence" and become a co-founder of that network I felt that it was a found term and viewpoint with big potential to grow and I joint to that with great interest. I had chance to participate in 3 Microresidence meetings; in 2014 and 2015 in Tokyo and in a "micro" meeting in Yerevan, 2016.

But this one was very site-specific that could happen only in Japan, particularly in Kyoto-in the cultural capital of Japan. The idea of holding the meeting in Buddhist temple was great. We could not only share innovative ideas and case studies but also feel the cultural background and atmosphere of visiting country. Thanks to people of Anwel Gallery team that came up with that brave idea not doing an usual international conference but also offering component of Japanese culture, we had a moment of feeling a bit Japanese and carrying that culture for 2 days, be part of it and have your own input. One of my vivid experiences of my life is staying one night in the Buddhist Temple Kosho-Ji, morning meditation with community, following the instructions of monk and having very simple breakfast in the temple after the pray which was also part of the ceremony I assume. Here is how I imagine how a discovery residency could be. It was just exiting to see that an open thinking monk welcome us for not only holding an event there, but also treated us as a full member of the community, attending Kosho-Ji temple.

During these both meetings in Kyoto I understood that Microresidence model is very important and valuable not only because of its flexibility and easy getting but also it can be a lab and hub that can provide an idea of a new approach, concept and model of a residency. Before small residencies were inspired from big institutions, but very soon I think big residency institutions will be established inspired from microresidencies, their site-specific establishment is a bank of ideas. They will feed up the philosophy of Artist-in-Residence social phenomenon and keep it always fresh and updated.

Armenian Evening as a Micro Forum 2019 on 15 February at Youkobo, Tokyo

It was very nice to me calling Micro Forum at Youkobo in the 15th Feb Armenian Evening. I tell very often that Youkobo is my home and studio in Japan liked our residency center ACOSS is home for everyone who wants to have an art space in Armenia and visit us frequently. We didn't have big audience, but we had very good and motivated audience who were also participants of the Micro-Forum with their one experience, narratives and approach to the subject. Here I had chance to talk a bit more about our organization, past activates, recent crowd funding campaign of supporting our growing construction works and developing international network. I talked also about my recent research in microresidence institutions in our region and former Soviet Union countries, about developing ideas of microresidency in Armenia from the economic perspective and ability of it to lead to social changes.

The feeling that I not only a guest in Youkobo but also the host, brings the concept of trans-locality into international residency experience. It means that being in other cultural environment, very different than yours, you are able to create a situation of your culture, sharing it with others, building a bridge for cultural penetration. I strongly believe that we need artists in residence note only for giving space artist to work who doesn't have their own but what is more important as a vehicle for developing intercultural and trans-local relationships and subcultural transmissions.

And international residency institution gives such unique opportunity being in country not a visitor, attendee of an event but lives there, be part of society, initiate an art project yourself and have your own

input in the contemporary cultural life of visiting country. Shortly- be a residency in hosting country not a visitor.

I did more research also parallel preparing for the Armenian evening, meeting Asako Fujioka, who visited Youkobo for the Armenian evening from Yamagata and could visit Art Center Ongoing with help of Makiko Tsuji, manager of Youkobo, who helped me a lot with organizing Armenian evening.

Back to Yerevan

I came back with strong will to continue transcultural exchange relationship with Japan and went to Japanese embassy in Yerevan to share my impression about the trip and cultural cooperation. I hope that we can make exchange between ACROSS and Japanese organizations as Youkobo "my home", Teiko Hinuma and her residency in Rekuzintakata, Asako Fujioka and her filmmakers' residency in Yamagata, Anwel Gallery in Kyoto. Hope we can start it this year.