

## INTERVIEW WITH TOBIAS HAGLEITNER

---

**You went to Tallinn within the URBAN INTERVENTIONS. Have you been there before? Did you visit the city again after you took part in the artist exchange? What did you experience in this city?**

I went to Tallinn for the first time within this artist exchange. I was interested in the narrative and architectural structures of this urban environment and the city's position in between the political systems, two decades after the breakdown of the Soviet republics. That Tallinn was trying to position and reinvent itself as the European Capital of Culture became an interesting topic to me, since my hometown Linz was the European Capital of Culture in 2009. The unusual heterogeneous mix of constructions from different times provided me a broad field for my artistic research. I was able to be part of a lot of exclusive guided tours of major Soviet buildings, like the Linnahall city hall, as well as of suburban prefabricated buildings. I got in touch with the local art scene and took a lot of opportunities to visit exhibitions and events.

**How did you experience the local art scene and how did the exchange with local artists and residents work out?**

Our similarity, being the European Capital of Culture, provided me, due to the support of the Capital of Culture 2011 office, a network of contacts for an easy start. Hence the first steps in the local scene were made and information and tips were easy to be found. Some of the former contacts became friends. Last year we played a concert with my music performance project in Tallinn. I

also met the Estonian artists who came to Linz for a residency or to visit the "Ars Electronica Festival".

**Describe your projects you developed there.**

Soon, I was really interested in a big estate in the northwestern part of the centre, the prefabricated buildings Õismäe. It is a planned community for 40.000 people, with quite high architectural standards and a concept of a garden town like Ebenezer Howards. I used my analogue camera to take pictures of the negative "Soviet-Icon", the washed concrete slabs, which are characterising the facades and the atmosphere. I created a so called "Simuakrum-Object" of an Estonian prefabricated building by using an animation. The video "majapanel" opens a new perception on a stereotypical building material, distracts the old typology and builds a new visual narrative. Because of my contacts to the Estonian composers association it was possible to use a piece of music, from the Estonian musician Tauno Aints, for my work. This has been an important extension that provides a very special, local atmosphere.

**In which way could you present your projects and which reactions did you cause?**

The video has been shown twice within the European Capital of Culture 2011: At a film and music event in an arthouse cinema in Tallinn and at the premier of a commissioned piece of Tauno Aints at the "Schauplatz der Fotogafien", in Õismäe. My acquaintances in Tallinn reacted positively, they told me about successful events.



**Can you describe the residencies influence on your work? Which effects had it retrospectively?**

The residency took an important part in my personal and artistic development. Besides the projects I realised I had time to think about other topics like cities, narrativity and society. Both provide a basis for my work since then and helped me to get a scholarship within an artistic-scientific PhD program, at the "The University of Art and Design Linz". Especially for artist from medium sized cities, like Linz, a residency means the confrontation and exchange with other scenes and artists, an essential bordering of the mind. The residency provides space for progression and development, which, in the end, is also positive for the city.

