

STUK residency - impression and experience

30.7 - 10.8

Laura Kirshenbaum, Creative Crossroads program

STUK was the first residency as part of Creative crossroad program.

While working at STUK, I managed to achieve the goals I came with , thanks to the given conditions ; the facilities were equipped ,spacious, clean and easy to manage.

The warm welcoming made me feel at ease and allowed full concentration in the working process. During the residency days there was no problem to ask any thing I needed. In addition, the early stages of the exchange, before the arrival ,were easily communicated.

The apartment were we slept in, was clean and had all the basic equipment we needed.

Leuven was fantastic! The location of STUK is great - city centre where all is happening - cafe's, restaurants, parks and museums are close by.

I invited Nitsan Margalio, a friend and colleague, as a contributor in order to map together the different references, physical attitudes and other materials I've collected throughout the year. Having him on the first few days and having the chance to share what I was interested, enriched the research physically and conceptually and thus enabled an easier continuation of the research when I was alone.

I met the iconography professor Barbara Baert. She explained passionately about iconography and symbolism. She was generous, professional, interesting and willing to hear what are my interests. I was very intrigued by our rich encounter and later on, I found ways to integrate the information she was generally sharing ,into my own work.

This encounter made possible by Leen Bleys who first got her contacts.

As I am continuing to develop the solo work towards a coming premiere in 2020, and as I was already given the amazing opportunity of working in STUK, which I am grateful for; I would like to see if there is a way to have an ongoing relationship in terms of a co-production or a premiere, in order to share the final work with the audience in Leuven .Also, I would have loved to meet possible partners or future collaborators during the residency but due to the time that it took place (in August) it couldn't happen.

In order to take my work further and bring it towards a premier I would appreciate any contacts, as any reference will contribute immensely.

Overall, the experience of the residency was lovely and supportive, and allowed me to develop the work further onwards..