



FEEDBACK

Did the philomena+ residence meet your expectations?

This was my first residency experience, and it became one of the best experiences I've had in my art career. From the very beginning, Christine and Aline chose a wonderful partner to work with, Anna Khodorkovskaya. From the moment I arrived in Vienna, and even before that, the philomena+ team was incredibly welcoming.

Before the opening, there was an intense working phase. Throughout that time, Christine and Aline were extremely professional and attentive to every detail, while a sense of warmth and care never diminished. The collaboration felt thoughtful, generous, honest, and deeply supportive. Everyone genuinely wanted the best for each other and for the work. There was patience and openness toward all ideas and possibilities, which was very reassuring and created a strong sense of trust between us.

As time passed, I felt myself growing closer to everyone, which made it genuinely difficult for me to say goodbye.

The exhibition opening was part of Vienna Art Week, and the scale of the art scene in the city was overwhelming in the best way. Openings, open studios, and exhibitions were happening constantly. Every day offered the chance to encounter new spaces, artists, and conversations.

What did you take away from your stay in Vienna?

I took away a different kind of acceptance, one that holds many perspectives at once. I also formed meaningful connections that will remain very close to my heart.

Maybe it was a coincidence, but we were all women working together, and that felt deeply empowering. The balance between professionalism, warmth, softness, and sensitivity was always present. On a personal level, this was a very meaningful experience for me.

What are the special features of a philomena+ residence and philomena+ in general?

The location of the residency is exceptional, and Vienna itself feels very safe and open. People pass by the space every day, and there is a genuine public interest in art, which often led to spontaneous and memorable conversations.

The residency space is very well equipped, with everything needed to work comfortably. I especially appreciated being able to use the gallery as my studio for almost two weeks before the opening. It created a rare and valuable connection between process and presentation. I truly miss the space and hope to return to Vienna someday.

What advice would you give to future applicants?

Take time to settle in and get to know the art community. It is welcoming, generous, and open. Build connections, listen carefully, and stay open to the full experience. One of the most rewarding things you can do is visit other artists in their studios. The conversations and the opportunity to witness different processes are incredibly enriching.

Farah Barakat, Cairo, Dec. 24th, 2025

3 photos taken by Farah Barakat
during her stay in Vienna

