

Different Trains

Multichannel video by Beatriz Caravaggio

14/06/2019 – 06/10/2019

Part of the Barcelona Grec Festival 2019 programme

With the collaboration of Fundación BBVA

Press release

The Fundació Joan Miró presents *Different Trains*, a video installation by Beatriz Caravaggio.

In 1988, the North American Steve Reich, one of the pioneers of minimalism, composed *Different Trains*, a piece about the Jewish Holocaust. Almost thirty years later, Beatriz Caravaggio gives visual life to this three-movement score for string quartet and pre-recorded tape.

Drawing on the canonical recording by the Kronos Quartet and archive images from the period, the author creates a videographic triptych in which she counterposes Reich's travels by train through United States with the deportations to the Nazi camps.

The video installation, commissioned by the BBVA Foundation, will be presented at the Fundació Joan Miró as part of the Barcelona Grec Festival 2019 programme and can be seen until 6 October.



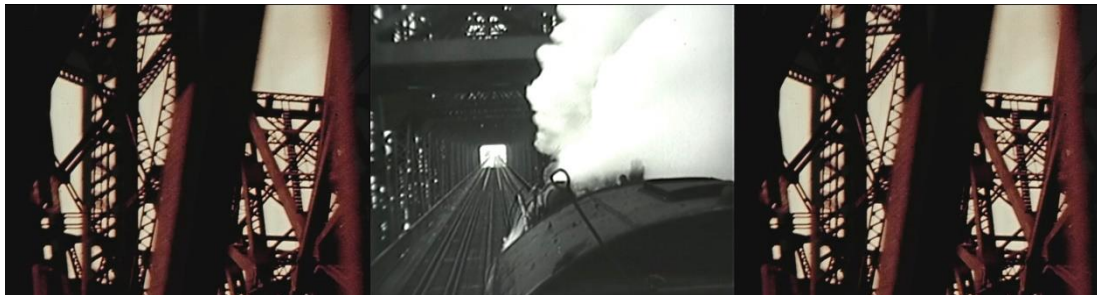
Barcelona, 14 June, 2019. In 1988 Steve Reich composed *Different Trains*, an innovative work in three movements for string quartet and pre-recorded tape. This autobiographical piece evokes, in the first movement, the train journeys from New York to Los Angeles that the composer made between 1939 and 1942 to visit

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the homes of his divorced parents. In the second movement, the remembrance of these journeys as a romantic childhood adventure is overlaid by a contrafactual scenario exploring the likely fate of a Jew like him in the Europe of the time: the trains would have been one-way vehicles of deportation to the Nazi extermination camps. The final movement refers to the end of the war period and the rapid process of social transformation, as symbolized by the new trains, but also refers to the survivors' inability to leave behind the doubts, anxieties and memories of the crimes and devastation of the Nazi regime.

In 2016, in a work commissioned by the BBVA Foundation, Beatriz Caravaggio has revisited Steve Reich's ideas, giving the score a visual life. Her cinematographic recomposition builds on a montage of archive images of the wartime period. The film transports us from a setting of idyllic landscapes and magnificent trains to the survivors' journey to America, by way of a central movement that conjures up the darkest chapters of the war. In this passage, the author juxtaposes archive images of deportations, death camps and the liberation. The film is characterised by the division of the screen into three parts, bringing out a rich range of meanings; a slightly out-of-synch triptych that achieves a temporal fragmentation while producing a cohesive collage of dynamics and transitions. The video art work has been synchronised with the Kronos Quartet's canonical 1989 performance of *Different Trains*.

SD video. Stereo sound. 29 min



*Since we live in a time when many people want a visual accompaniment for music — even at concerts—several people have created videos to accompany my piece *Different Trains*. To be honest, most of them I have not even seen, and those I have are generally just a distraction from listening to the music. The one exception is the brilliant multichannel video by Beatriz Caravaggio, which really works as something to watch on its own and as a way to intensify listening to *Different Trains*. She has taken documentary footage and through multichannel placement and fine editing, made a thoughtful and moving piece.*

Bravo, Beatriz!

Steve Reich, 2017

Beatriz Caravaggio born in Oviedo (Spain), has made music videos, documentary films, video art works and video installations. Her documentaries have been shown at the Festival du Film de Montreal, Les Rencontres Internationales Paris / Berlin / Madrid, Festival de Cine de Bogotá, Festival de Cine Iberoamericano de Huelva, and have been broadcast on Canal + España, TV3 Televisió de Catalunya, EITB Euskal Telebista, Canal Satélite Digital and Documania. Her videos art works and video installations have been shown at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Fundación BBVA, Círculo de Bellas Artes and La Casa Encendida in Madrid; at the Fundació Joan Miró and CCCB Centre de Cultura Contemporània in Barcelona; at the Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao; at the Museo Patio Herreriano de Valladolid; at Toledo Museum of Arts, Ohio; at the Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth, in Australia, and at Canon Digital Creators Context in Japan, among others.

She has been awarded various prizes and production grants, such as that of the Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales of the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Centro de Creación Contemporánea Matadero Madrid; the Festival Minima Prize and the Net.Art Visual Prize for her work Mapping Suspicion.

Steve Reich (New York, 1936) has been called ‘America’s greatest living composer’ (The Village Voice), ‘the most original musical thinker of our time’ (The New Yorker), and ‘[one] among the great composers of the century’ (The New York Times). His music has influenced composers and mainstream musicians all over the world. Music for 18 Musicians and Different Trains have earned him two GRAMMY awards, and in 2009 his Double Sextet won the Pulitzer Prize. In 2012 he was awarded the Gold Medal in Music by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Earlier he won the Preamium Imperale in Tokyo, the Polar Prize in Stockholm, and the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards in Madrid. In 2014, he was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale. He has been named Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and has been awarded honorary doctorates by the Juilliard School, the Liszt Academy in Budapest and the New England Conservatory of Music among others.

‘There’s just a handful of living composers who can legitimately claim to have altered the direction of musical history and Steve Reich is one of them’, states The Guardian.

For more than 40 years, San Francisco’s **Kronos Quartet** has combined a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to continually re-imagining the string quartet experience. In the process, Kronos has become one of the world’s most celebrated and influential ensembles, performing thousands of concerts, releasing more than 50 recordings, collaborating with an eclectic mix of composers and performers, and

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commissioning over 850 works and arrangements for string quartet. A Grammy winner, Kronos also received the Polar Music Prize and the Avery Fisher Prize.

The non-profit Kronos Performing Arts Association (KPAA) manages all aspects of Kronos' work, including the commissioning of new works, concert tours and home-season performances, education programs, and its new presenting program KRONOS PRESENTS. In 2015 KPAA launched a new 5-year commissioning and education initiative, Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire, which will commission 50 new works designed to train students and emerging professionals, and be distributed online for free.



Images at <http://bit.ly/Different-Trains>

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