

**Grec Festival Barcelona 2019 at the Fundació Joan Miró**

***Via Augusta. Concert by Agustí Fernández Ensemble***

Thursday, 11 July 2019, 8.30 pm

***Different Trains***

**Multichannel video by Beatriz Caravaggio**

14/06/2019 – 06/10/2019

In collaboration with Fundación BBVA

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**Press release**

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**The Fundació Joan Miró is hosting two events from the Grec Festival Barcelona 2019**

**Agustí Fernández, a pianist, composer, conductor and a leading exponent of improvised music, presents his project *Via Augusta* at the Fundació Joan Miró, on 11 July at 8.30 pm.**

**Improvisers from Barcelona will share the stage with musicians from three continents in a concert that will bring together performers of different origins and generations. An exercise in the transmission of musical knowledge, with the public as an accomplice.**

**As part of Grec Audiovisual, and scheduled until 6 October, the Fundació Joan Miró presents *Different Trains*, a video-installation by Beatriz Caravaggio based on the eponymous musical piece on the Holocaust by the North-American composer Steve Reich.**

**Barcelona, 5 July 2019.** Once again, the Fundació Joan Miró participates in the Grec Festival Barcelona with two performances: a concert by the Agustí Fernández Ensemble, on Thursday 11 July 2019 at 8.30 pm, and the screening of the video-installation *Different Trains*, by Beatriz Caravaggio, until 6 October.

The improvised music scene in our city has grown exponentially in recent years, especially in style and quality. Musicians from Barcelona have been performing together with those from other countries in the main international festivals. In these meetings there is a transmission of knowledge and musical wisdom that the *Via Augusta* project by the Agustí Fernández Ensemble now brings to the Grec Festival Barcelona 2019. The title refers to the well-known street that once connected Barcelona to the main cities of the Roman Empire.



At the concert at the Fundació Joan Miró, a number of performers from Barcelona will exchange knowledge and techniques with guest musicians from different countries around the world. An opportunity for emerging talents to learn from more established artists, and for the younger musicians to share their freshness and new ways of music-making with an older generation.

*Via Augusta* is a project by Agustí Fernández, a pianist, composer and conductor, and one of the world's leading exponents of improvised music. Fernández is a regular presence at the Grec Festival who has played with all the great improvisers, published over a hundred albums and is a teacher at ESMuC. The event on 11 July at the Foundation will include a talk on improvised music after the concert.



Music is also the starting point of the Fundació Joan Miró's second collaboration with the Grec Festival Barcelona 2019. In 1988, the North-American composer Steve Reich wrote *Different Trains*, a ground-breaking three-movement piece for string quartet and pre-recorded tape. In the first movement, the piece evokes Reich's train journeys between New York and Los Angeles from 1939 to 1942, as a result of his parents' divorce. To the memory of these exciting and romantic childhood experiences of rail travel, the second movement adds the counterfactual thought of what might have happened to a Jewish child like him had he lived in Europe during that time: the one-way deportations that took millions to the Nazi concentration camps. The last movement refers to the years immediately after the war and the rapid process of social transformation that ensued, as well as, for the survivors, the impossibility of overcoming their doubts, anxieties and memories of the devastation caused by the crimes of the Nazi regime.

In 2016, Beatriz Caravaggio was commissioned by the Fundación BBVA to reinterpret Steve Reich's ideas and give visual life to his musical score. Caravaggio's cinematographic rewriting is based on a skilful editing of archive images of that period of history. The work transports us from the bucolic landscapes and magnificent trains of the first movement, to the survivors' journeys to America in the third movement, via the second movement's darker episodes of war, a journey juxtaposing archive material showing the deportations, the death camps and the eventual 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 tryptic that achieves a temporal fragmentation, while producing a cohesive collage of dynamics and transitions. The musical recording used in the work is the 1989 canonical performance of *Different Trains* by the Kronos Quartet, who were this year's protagonists at the opening of the Grec Festival. *Different Trains* will be presented at the Fundació Joan Miró until 6 October 2019.

For more information:

<https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/activities/adults-i-altres-grups/2/117/grec-2019-agusti-fernandez-ensemble> and at

<https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/foundation/press/199/beatriz-caravaggio-different-trains>