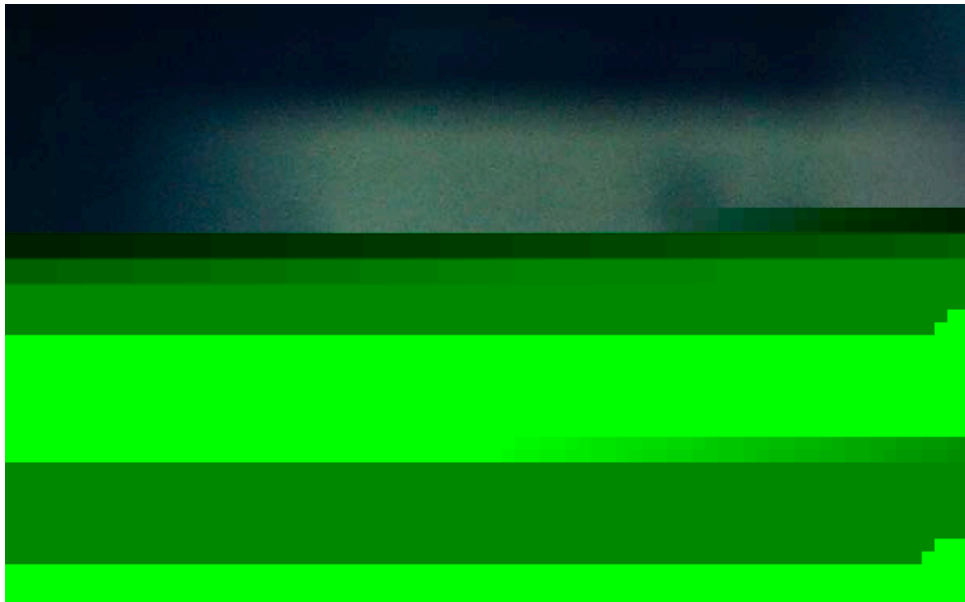


JOSEP-MARIA BALANYÀ



CovidExpress

CovidExpress

CovidExpress is a photographic project created by Josep-Maria Balanyà, after his confinement in Belgium, due to the Covid-19 and just after his heart-attack. The project consists of a photo exhibition and a video. The title of the video is *CovidExpress, going nowhere*.

For many days in May 2020, he went to the Moeraske Park for a walk. Most of this site is in Evere, Brussels, Belgium and extends over 14 ha. In front of the northern part of the park, there is an expansive railroad hub linking the Schaerbeek Station, located 1 km to the west.

There, Balanyà took a series of photos of the passing trains. Most of the train wagons were empty because of the Covid-19 situation. Sometimes there were a few passengers. Somehow, these photos reflect the sad times in which we live, the loneliness, the frustration produced by the lack of haptic communication. The trains that we can no longer take pass by empty. Travel is forbidden. Still, we can travel with our mind, with our soul.

Of the series, Balanyà selected 13 photos, shot on May 15, 2020.

Camera: Panasonic DMC-FZ 8. Camera lens: Leica

The presentation of the photos is accompanied by a video, for which I have created both the image and the soundtrack, and entitled *CovidExpress - going nowhere*

Barcelona, February 1, 2021

1 Confinement



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 46 x 20 cm. Photo with frame: 58 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

2 ForestExpress

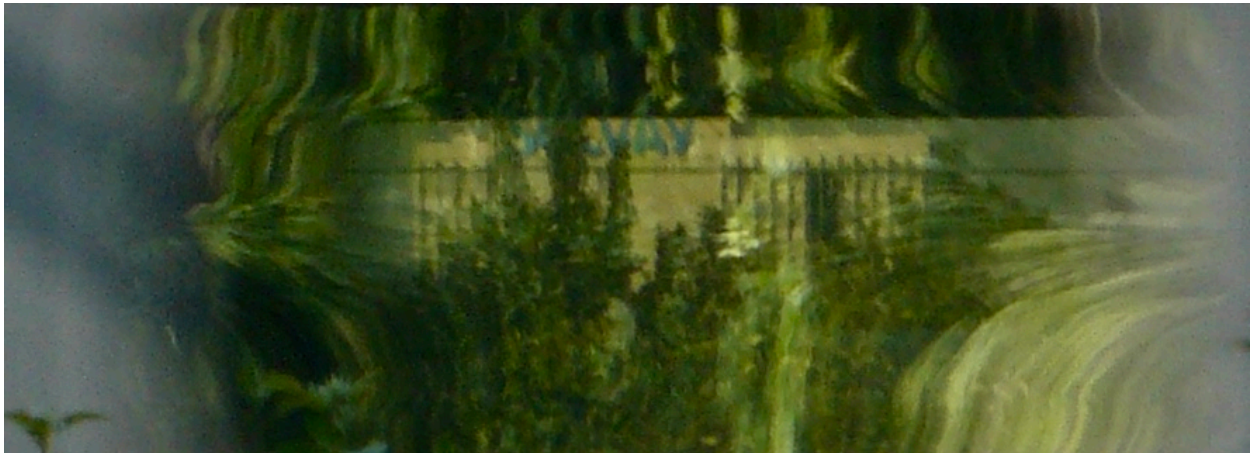


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 42 x 15 cm. Photo with frame: 58 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

3 A Journey With Covid

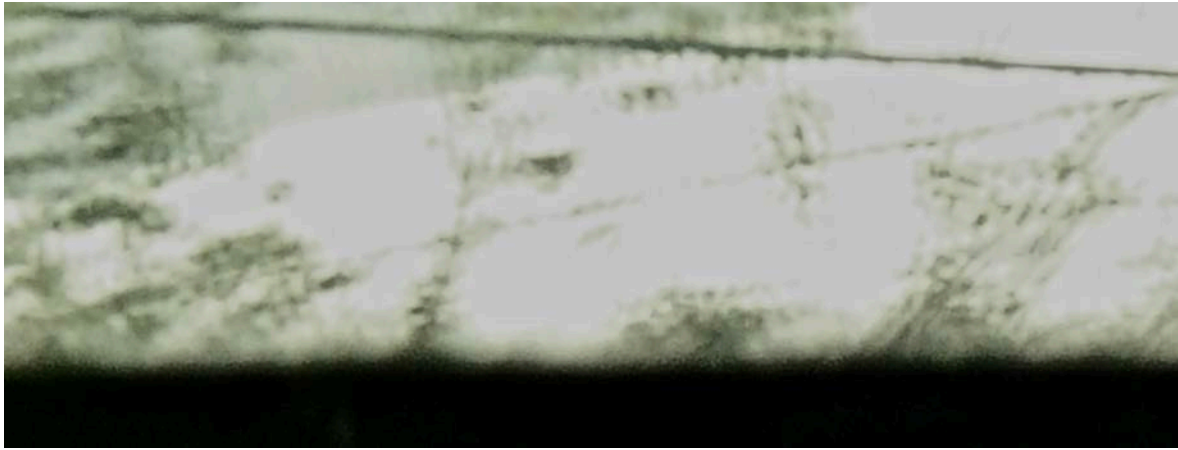


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 40 x 15 cm. Photo with frame: 58 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

4 Hope

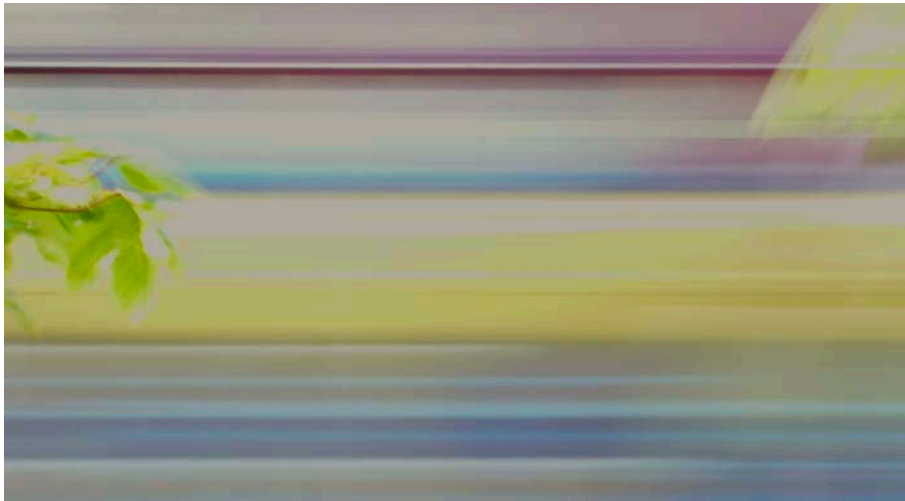


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 37 x 20 cm. Photo with frame: 58 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

5 Social Rights



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 33 x 20 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

6 Loneliness

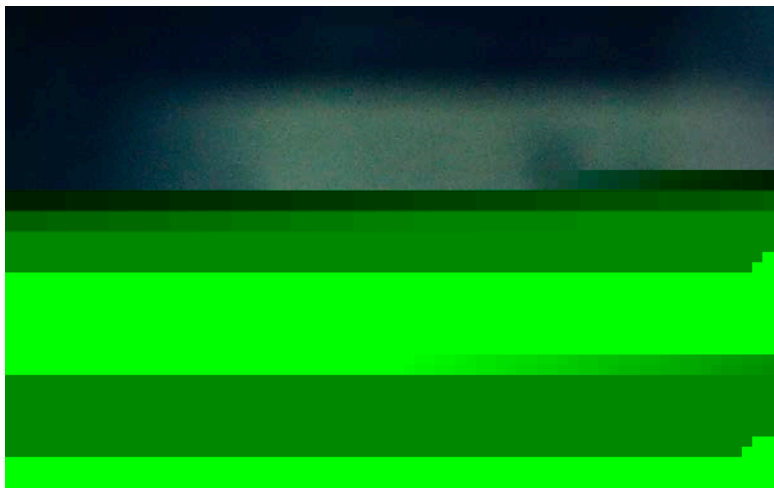


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

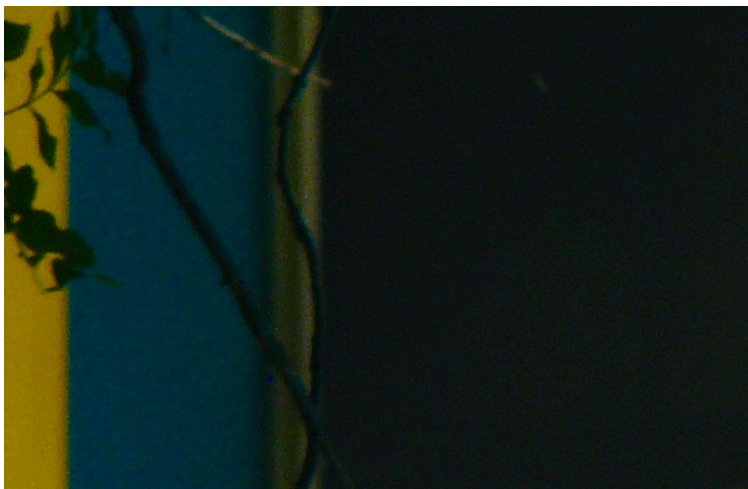
Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 31 x 19 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered



7 Despair

Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 31 x 20 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

8 Moeraske

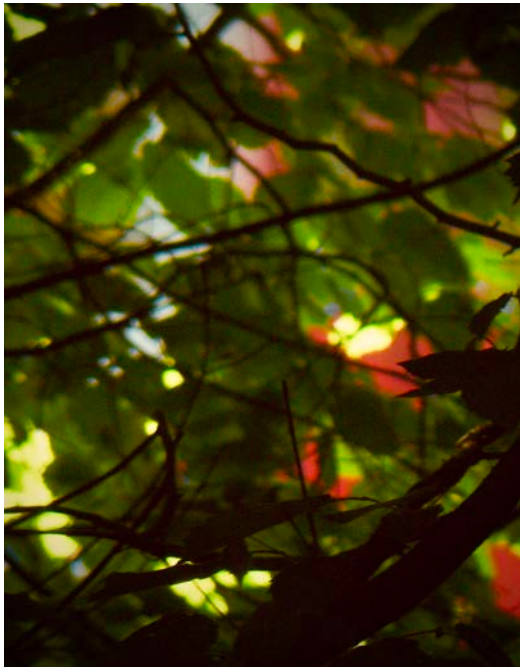


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanya

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 20 x 26 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

9 Expectation



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 20 x 25,5 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

10 Gentle Covid



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 15 x 25 cm. Photo with frame: 43 x 38 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

11 CovidExpress



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 62 x 15 cm. Photo with frame: 78 x 31 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

12 Human Rights

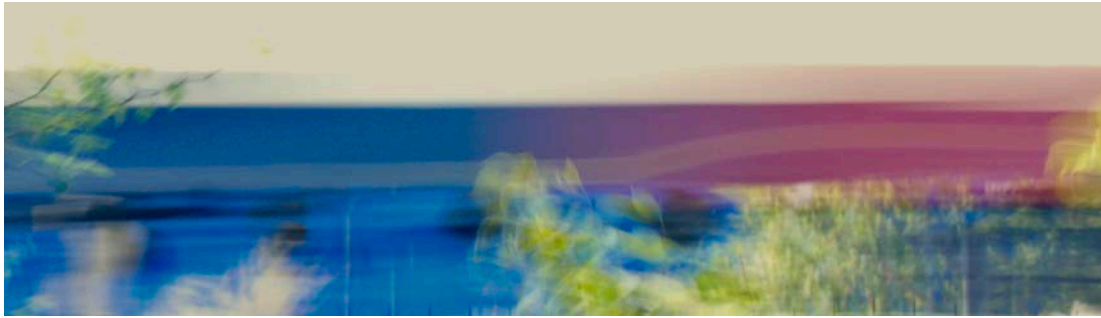


Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 54 x 15 cm. Photo with frame: 78 x 31 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

13 Covid Landscape



Photo by Josep-Maria Balanyà

Taken at the Moeraske Park, Evere - Brussels, Belgium

May 15, 2020

Photo size: 91 x 15 cm. Photo with frame: 103 x 31 cm.

Fuji color

Edition: 3 copies, signed and numbered

SIZES AND PRICES

Nº	Title	Size type	Photo with frame, in cm	Photo, in cm	Value in € frame included
1	Confinement	A	58 x 38	46 x 20	350
2	ForestExpress	A	58 x 38	42 x 15	280
3	Journey with Covid	A	58 x 38	40 x 15	280
4	Hope	A	58 x 38	37 x 20	280
5	Social Rights	B	43 x 38	33 x 20	280
6	Loneliness	B	43 x 38	31 x 19	250
7	Despair	B	43 x 38	31 x 20	250
8	Moeraske	B	43 x 38	20 x 26	200
9	Expectation	B	43 x 38	20 x 25,5	200
10	Gentle Covid	B	43 x 38	15 x 25	200
11	CovidExpress	C	78 x 31	62 x 15	380
12	Human Rights	C	78 x 31	54 x 15	350
13	Covid Landscape	D	103 x 31	91 x 15	450

SAMPLE FRAMED PHOTO

The frame is in aluminum trim lined with natural maple veneer. Normal transparent glass.



MOTION AND E-MOTION

Josep-Maria Balanyà's pictures are impressive at first sight. The expressive imagery clearly shows that the visible world is the occasion for the photos, but is also linked to an inner, emotional situation. In the compositions, calm, natural movements contrast with rapid, technical speed that the camera perceives as lines and blurring. Josep-Maria Balanyà sometimes selects shots in which artificial light and color effects further alienate visible reality. In this way the artist creates an own, subjective excerpt from the inner and outer world.

For a year now, the rules of personal communication have been changing or being replaced by electronic "meetings" because of the pandemic, conversations are seen as a "risk", music — especially singing— has become a major threat to the health of everyone involved. These are atrocities that affect everyone. The years 2020/21 will go down in the collective memory as years of Covid-19, presumably traumatically, as well as being passed on to the next generations as "oral history" and preserved.

Traveling and the associated expansion of experience, the lively and spontaneous intercultural exchange as well as working abroad are often of decisive importance for progress and success. Despite all concerns about the pollution of the environment, traveling for work or to meet friends and family is part of today's living. As the days of Covid-19 as a stowaway are numbered, it is traveling faster and faster around the world. The train transports everything - people and Covid-19. In pictures such as "Loneliness" Josep-Maria Balanyà shows in a very painful, poetic way the rarity, even almost illegal secrecy of human encounters. In order to ensure survival in the time of the pandemic, much of what was previously loved and valued is being given up. Can the exchange of culture, direct communication, free structures and human rights simply emerge again after the pandemic?

Josep-Maria Balanyà's pictures are characterized by the exciting choice of artistic and photographic means as well as the merging of reality and lyrical impression. The moments captured as if by chance show the fragility of a beloved world or the "being lost" in a strange situation, almost casually what make the pictures something special - beyond the current pandemic.

Dr. Gabriele Lohberg, art historian, art management, expert for modern and contemporary art, former head of the European Academy of Fine Arts, Trier, Germany.

JOSEP-MARIA BALANYÀ - BIOGRAPHY

The career of the Catalan pianist Josep-Maria Balanyà, born in Barcelona, with 22 CD recorded and more than 140 works, has taken him from the classical music and jazz until his specialisation into the field of improvisation and the new contemporary music, experimental music and performance. Internationally recognised, Balanyà is also composer, conductor of improvising orchestras, sound artist, painter and photographer.

Josép-Maria Balanyà explores the limits of music in his compositions and performances. He is particularly interested in the combination of different arts and the transfer of art into music. In order to expand and deepen his preoccupation with the fine arts and also with the craft material, he attended courses in painting and etching at the European Academy of Fine Arts in Trier / Germany.

Under the auspices and organization of the head of the Academy, Dr. Gabriele Lohberg, Balanyà performed for many years a series of interactive concerts-performances in the Kunsthalle of the Academy, where fine arts were combined with music and performance. Here he experimented with the interaction between the sounds that arise when working on the copper etching plate and the artistic result. He worked with the metal workshop that made or provided sculptures for musical performances. The works are now in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in Tarragona. In a teaching assignment for the students of the European Art Academy, he devoted himself to the music images of contemporary compositions and suggested using them as a basis for further musically interpretable drawings. In performative concerts, he not only made musical instruments sound, but - with electronic amplification and alienation - sculptures (Pierre Wéber), paintings (class Joe Allen), bodies (models from the art academy) and objects trouvés. As part of these projects, Balanyà even gave a concert of bells in the cathedral of Trier.

Mainly, his own art production focuses on abstract paintings in which he uses mixed media, but especially acrylic on canvas. His work can be seen in his private gallery in Brussels and in buyers' homes. In addition, he has studied photography and practiced this art since adolescence. His work has followed a process ranging from pictorialism, to direct photography, street photography, macro technique and the study of the human body. He is currently preparing several exhibitions in which he presents a series of impressionist-style photos with movement; this technique gives an abstract pictorial result.

As for his main field, music, Balanyà studied in Barcelona and Switzerland (Swiss Jazz School and

Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Bern), he attended composition workshops, led by Helmut Lachenmann, Walter Zimmermann and Ivan Fedele, and improvisation workshops by Borah Bergman in New York. He carried out intensive research into the sounds of nature in Mexico, working with oceanographers and biologists, including mammalogist Bernardo Villa.

Among his more than 140 works, with a significant part of improvisation, are multimedia projects for piano, voice, electronics, video, Butoh dance. He has created sound sculptures and sound installations, which can be played by the visitors His works as a solo pianist reflect his interest in complimenting the pure sound of the piano with pieces for the prepared or extended piano.

He has developed his most imaginative actions at the boundary between music and performance, such as a recital in complete darkness at the Sendesaal of Bremen or the concert for the bells of Trier's cathedral (Germany).

He has played with first-rate musicians including Claudio Pontiggia, Hans Koch, Joachim Kühn, Franz Hautzinger, Carlos Zingaro, Michiel Borstlap, Walter Quintus, Ksenija Lukic, Hannah Marshall, Das Neue Ensemble Hannover, Americo Rodrigues, Ramón López, Paul Rogers, Mark Sanders, Hannah Ma (dance), Mimi Barthélemy among others.

Balanyà has played in festivals and radio programs in many countries in Europe and America. He has received several grants in Germany and Switzerland. He is currently based in Brussels and Barcelona.

The concerts by Balanyà are powerful rituals – it could be said that he plays the piano with his whole body – during which we can perceive the presence of music change into matter.

