

Frederik Croene (°1973)

After graduating from Conservatories in 1999 Frederik Croene developed a handful trajectories in which he reflects on the ever changing and multi-layered identities of the classical pianist. As the Gestalt of his instrument is grounded in 19th century romanticism, he still uses virtuosity to communicate about being a pianist. He played and recorded some classical repertoire and worked intensively with composers as Michael Beil, Johannes Kreidler, Simon Steen-Andersen, Michael Finnissy, Alexander Schubert and Stefan Prins. His formulation of the concept of *Le Piano Démécanisé* in an article and an LP-release in 2010 was a turning point in becoming a composer/performer.

With pianist Elisa Medinilla he founded PIANOGUIDE, a dynamic pianist think tank that develops concert events together with programmers and for which Croene composes new pieces with video. Other trajectories tend to focus more on transdisciplinary art with artist Karl van Welden, improvisation and intuitive performance/studio recording with Timo van Luijk a.k.a Af Ursin.

He is a piano teacher and leads the Vinim-atelier, a place for new music experiments. In a small venue in Merelbeke (BE) he curates *PXP*, a series of concerts with experimental music.



TRAJECTORIES

1. Collaborations

Trying to unfold durable relations, Croene works together with artists from a wide range of art disciplines.

- With Karl Van Welden

The collaboration between artist Karl van Welden and Frederik Croene started with Mars II in 2015. Together with sound ingenieur and artist Vincent Malstaf they created a trans medial event in which philosophy, composition and installation art told a transcendental story about the human condition under threat of extinction. Van Welden also conceived the sleeve concept and video trailer for Croene's solo LP Cul de Sac. Next up is Earth I, for solo piano and a gigantic piece of felt cloth draped over the stage and descending almost unperceivably on the piano and pianist.

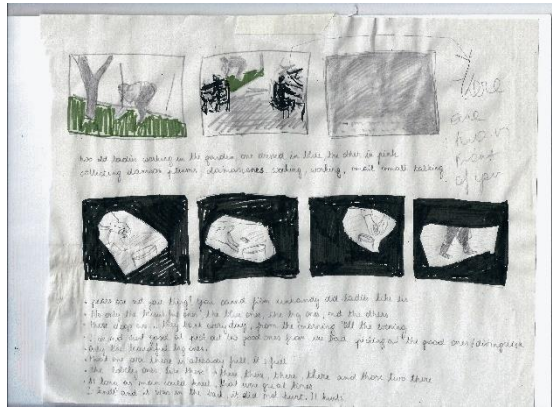


- With Timo van Luijk

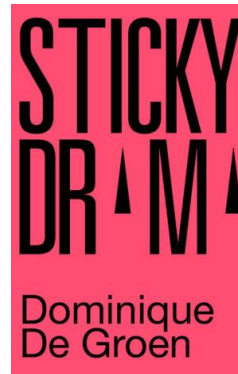
Already more than ten years Croene & van Luijk collaborate on live shows and LP publications in which they search for common grounds. They try to link the intuitive music van Luijk has been developing over the years with Croene's deeply classical education.



- With Markéta de Borggraef
Starting as assistance for fine tuning Croene's compositions with video, this collaboration transformed into developing projects together in which video is presented as compositional material equal to sound.

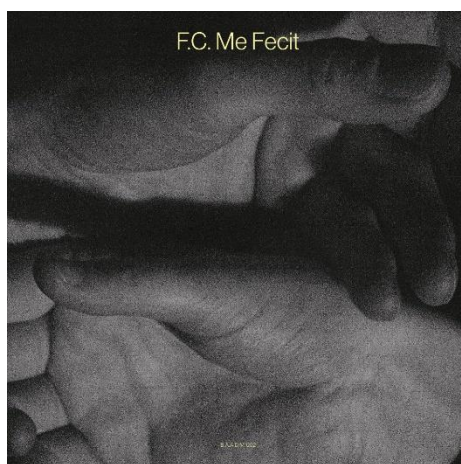


- With Dominique De Groen
Sticky Drama, a poem collection by Dominique De Groen inspired Croene collaboration that will result in a long Hammond Organ, Le Piano percussion.



young Flemish writer to engage in a piece for voice, piano, Démécanisé &

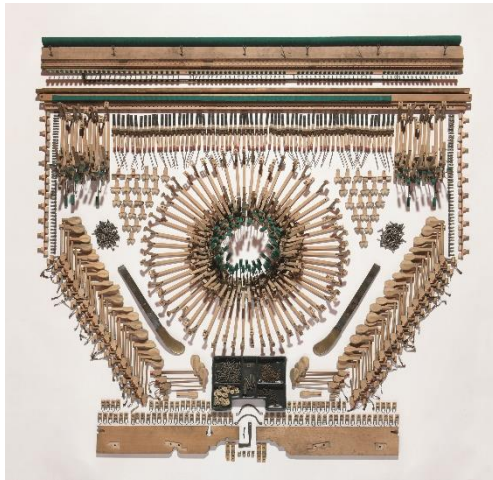
- With Joris Verdoodt



Graphic designer Joris Verdoodt provided sleeve designs and visual concepts for a number of projects by Croene, beginning with Le Piano Démécanisé. His latest website is designed by the duo Joris Verdoodt & Mathieu Serruys who also published on their label B.A.A.D.M. and designed F.C. me fecit, Croene's church organ record.

2. Composition

- Le Piano Démécanisé
In 2010 Croene published an article and an LP (Audiomer) baptized Le Piano Démécanisé. It demonstrated that dismantling a piano and playing on its insides with the piano keys in his hands was not only a playful gesture but unveiled a bunch of conceptual piano territories in which sounds and piano traditions where reinvented. Roll over Czerny, for example, is a recital in which he tries to blend the mechanical etudes of Carl Czerny with the de-mechanized thinking of Le Piano Démécanisé. Two extremes of pianistic identity -the inside playing versus the sportive aspects of classically trained musicianship- are blended with the help of an absurdist 'artistic research'- based text about the dismantling gesture itself.



- Organ
As the first opportunity to earn a living when still a teenager, was as a church organ player, this instrument kept being important for Croene. In 2015 he published F.C. me Fecit (B.A.A.D.M., 2015), a dark meditation on the organ of the Sint-Pieterskerk in Ghent. On his Hammond organ he composed soundtracks for silent movies such as Håxan (Benjamin Christensen, 1927) and Film (Samuel Beckett, 1964).



- Piano solo
His relationship with the piano is the core of his identity as a musician. Even when deconstructing a piano, he departs from a deep physical love for the instrument. A recent successful example is his series Cul de Sac (LP, 2019). Breathtakingly virtuosic but deeply embedded in classical piano cliché's.



- Other
Sporadically, Croene composes pieces not for piano solo: Eagle Finger (piano duo & TV), guitar piece for Nico Couck, Sticky Drama (voice, piano, Hammond Organ, Le Piano Démécanisé & percussion), La Séance Inutile (video, double bass and guitar) and numerous pieces with video (Vinim-atelier)



3. Curating

- **PIANOGUIDE**
PIANOGUIDE was founded by pianists Elisa Medinilla en Frederik Croene. Frederik Croene's passion for radically new recital formats (Roll over Czerny, 492 Kilo, Mars II, ...) and Elisa Medinilla's extensive experience and skills as a performer of the Nadar Ensemble come together in PIANOGUIDE: a visionary new piano collective. PIANOGUIDE focuses on new compositions in which images (video, choreography, gestures), concepts and/or ideas play as important a role as sounds. PIANOGUIDE advocates for a new understanding of pianistic identity by putting its own compositions on the program. PIANOGUIDE events are based on a combination of ideas building on keyboard traditions and theories on virtuosity, pedagogy, conceptual art, and are set up around an attractive and provoking visual approach.
- **PostXperformance series**
Frederik Croene curates a small unpredictable series of adventurous evenings of experimental music/performance. The location is PostX, a former post office with two spaces, one of which is perfectly suited as a small concert venue. It has all technical requirements for events with new media and a rather good grand piano.
- **492 Kg, an extended piano recital**
In 2011 he transformed an issue of RTRSRCH magazine, devoted to 8 articles by composers/performers using new media and concepts to transcend the classical way of working into an extraordinary piano recital. Simon Steen-Andersen, Laura Maes, David Helbich, Cathy Van Eck, Falk Hübner, Marianthi Papalexandra, Stefan Prins and Matthew Shlomowitz were all invited to compose a 'piece' for piano or pianist. The result was a refreshing reinvention of the classical piano recital.

curated &
performed by **Frederik Croene**
composers
David Helbich
Falk Hübner
Laura Maes
Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri
Stefan Prins
Matthew Shlomowitz
Simon Steen-Andersen
Cathy Van Eck

492 **an** **extended** **piano** **recital** **kg**

4. Education

- Coaching Ghent advanced master students
The musicians of G.A.M.E have been working with Frederik Croene in a three-day residence-workshop at PostX Merelbeke in December 2019. This collaboration resulted in a series of co-created soloworks for flute, voice, violin, laptop and electric guitar and two pieces for ensemble. The pieces were the result of a one-on-one collaboration with Croene, digging into the creative soul of every single performer. The outcome is both eclectic and coherent: the differences of the musical personalities melt together in a collective group-performance.



- Vinim-atelier
Together with the students of the music school, Croene worked out some pieces that use new media and extra-musical aspects of music making. The atelier became a zone for experimentation where Croene tests ideas for his own composition practise. Every year new constellations of students appear, teenagers from the age of 12 and adults with different backgrounds meet and mix, providing ever changing humus for performance practises.



5. Repertoire

- Freelancing
Sporadically, Croene is invited by ensembles like Tiptoe Company, Nadar Ensemble, Zefiro Torna or Odyssea Ensemble to perform as a pianist. Specifically contemporary repertoire or projects that transcend the classical repertoire.



- MozartKreidlerMozart
Croene plays two Mozart Sonatas, in between the movements short multimedia pieces by German composer Johannes Kreidler are inserted.



CV Frederik Croene (°1973, Master in Music - 1999, Conservatorium Brussel)

Compositieopdrachten

- 2020 Transit Festival, *On Education III* (werktitel) – participatieve compositie
- 2020 Nico Couck, *Piece For Guitar* - solocompositie
- 2019 Transit Festival, Nieuw werk w/ Karl Van Welden – piano solo
- 2019 Cortizona, *Cul de Sac* (LP) – piano solo
- 2019 Bijloke Muziekcentrum, *Damascenes, but only the Big Ones* – piano & video (w/Markéta de Borggraef)
- 2018 Handelsbeurs Gent, *On Education II* – participatieve compositie
- 2018 In Dreams (Radio Klara), *Ipnoedion* – piano & electronics (w/Timo van Luijk)
- 2017 Muziekcentrum Bijloke, *Eagle Finger* – piano 4-handig & TV
- 2017 Tiptoe Company, *La Séance Inutile, On Education I* – gitaar, contrabas & video
- 2015 B.A.A.D.M., *F.C. me fecit* (LP) - Kerkorgel solo
- 2015 Karl Van Welden, *Mars II* – piano solo, asregen en automatische piano (w/Karl Van Welden & Vincent Malstaf)
- 2015 Q-O2, *The Frankenstein Variations* – solo piano & electronics
- 2014 STUK, Artefact Festival, *Roll over Czerny* – solo piano & pianokader
- 2013 Transit Festival, *Lehman Brothers* – conceptueel werk w/collectief Lehman Brothers
- 2012 Concertgebouw Brugge, *Faust (F.W. Murnau)* – Hammond Orgel & Le Piano Démécanisé
- 2011 Filmfestival Gent/ArtCinemaOFFoff, *Häxan* – Hammond Orgel
- 2010 Audiomer Gent, *Le Piano Démécanisé* (LP) - pianokader
- 2009 Transit Festival Leuven, *Le Piano Démécanisé* - pianokader
- 2009 Haugen Produksjoner (NO), *Frames for Nostalgia* w/Liv Hanne Haugen - pianokader
- 2009 GentJazz Festival, residency w/Timo van Luijk – kapotte piano's
- 2009 Happy New Ears Kortrijk, residency w/Timo van Luijk – kapotte piano's
- 2008 La Scie Dorée, *Voile au Vent* (LP) w/Timo van Luijk - studiówerk
- 2006 Straattheaterfestival Gent, *Pianos Palliatifs* w/Erik Bassier– kapotte piano's
- 2005 Be-Part Waregem, *Schling* w/Stefan Prins– kapotte piano's
- 2003 Handelsbeurs Gent, Debuut CD – piano solo (repertoire)

Curator

- 2016-2020 PostX Merelbeke Flora, *PostXperformance series*
- 2015-'17-'19 De Bijloke Muziekcentrum, *Voyages au bout de Piano*
- 2011 492 Kg, *an Extended Piano Recital* (Simon Steen-Andersen, Laura Maes, David Helbich, Cathy Van Eck, Falk Hübner, Marianthi Papalexandra, Stefan Prins and Matthew Shlomowitz)

Subsidies

- 2015 De Vlaamse Gemeenschap, punctuele tussenkomst voor solorecital in Daegu, Zuid-Korea
- 2013 De Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Projectsubsidie: And What about Virtuosity? met Shila Anaraki
- 2011 De Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Projectsubsidie: 492 Kg, an extended Piano Recital
- 2009 Norsk Kulturråd, Tromsø Kommune, Fond for Utøvende Kunstnere, Projectsubsidie: Frames for Nostalgia, met Liv Hanne Haugen (Haugen Produksjoner)
- 2015 De Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Ontwikkelingsgerichte beurs

Performances (selection)

- Cul de Sac 2019-'20 STUK, CC Mechelen, CC Lier, CC Hasselt, Concertgebouw Brugge, Madrid, Kunsthal Gent, Handelsbeurs Gent, Wilde Westen Kortrijk, Hall13 Gent, Pianodays CC Meise
- Mars II 2015-'20 Naves Matadero (Madrid), Concertgebouw Brugge, Arsenal (Metz), CC Mechelen, Nuits Blanches (Brussel), CC Hasselt, Festival van Vlaanderen Kortrijk, Warande (Turnhout), Keine Disziplin (Zürich), Oortreders (Neerpelt), Love at First Side (Antwerpen), Uzès Danse (Uzès), Burning Ice, (Kaaitheater Brussel), Something Raw (Amsterdam), Le Vivat (Armentières), Vooruit (Gent)
- Solo recitals Holland Festival (NL, 2010), Transit Festival (BE, 2009), Time of Music Festival (FIN, 2013), De Singel (BE 2011), November Music(NL 2011), Concertgebouw Brugge (2011), Huddersfield (ENG, 2013)
- Freelancing with Nadar Ensemble (2015-'19), Zefiro Torna (2020), Hermes Ensemble (2015-'16), Ictus Ensemble (2010), Spectra Ensembl (2004-2009), Odyssea Ensemble (2020), Tiptoe Company (2016-'18)