

## **Let's hope lock-downs don't close any futures...**

The irruption of COVID-19 in our lives has generated a social disaster in which we are still immersed. To give a joint response to the disease, all stopping a huge part of the life that is developed in common (in the squares and streets, the shops, the bars and restaurants, in the schools, the museums, the cinemas or the theatres, etc. ), has put at the centre the interdependence inherent in the maintenance of life. However, this stop has led many people to extreme situations. The policies of cutting back on public services and equipment and the precariousness of work and access to housing in recent years have meant that, in these circumstances, our vulnerability is bigger. In the field of education, this disaster has meant that, from one day to the next, we have had to rethink and redefine our learning methods: an adaptation that has not always been easy either for teachers or for students and their families.

In this context, however, we have seen how a sector as affected by labour flexibilization and deregulation policies as the arts, crafts and design has been an active and committed agent in this crisis. Not only have many contents been shared and generated in the networks: a multitude of proposals and activities have been generated. The public facilities in the city of Barcelona (museums, theatres, athenaeums, civic centres, libraries, etc.) have been highly involved in this social response. From this desire for public service committed to the environment, the Massana School, as a municipal centre of Arts and Design and a cultural agent committed both to the neighbourhood and to the social and educational fabric, has joined the popular and self-organised proposals for the manufacture of open design and free protection resources for the health services. In educational terms, however, we are generally facing an uncertain context. We do not yet know what will happen next year, we know that we have the teachers and infrastructures necessary to respond and we know that we have the thrust, the commitment and the desire to make it possible. However, our students have expressed their concerns for the next year. Especially those of the University Degree, who must pay a high tuition fees because, at least for now, this curriculum is funded by it.

Ninety years later, the Massana School is still making its own the impulse that gave birth to it: on the one hand, it is a school that has been created, a school where arts, crafts and design can be taught and learned together and, from a another, a municipal school to ensure that everyone can access these studies. The School has tried to respond, from this willingness to both hybridize these disciplines and to the diversity of learning needs that can be addressed in the context of the give at different times in life. And he has done so by making his own the tradition of collaborative work rooted in the guilds and workshops to make it the pedagogical pillar of the School. The School has delivered, over the course of almost a century, this desire to offer training in all areas and at all levels, from of all ages, covering different needs. Since 2007, with the Consortium of Education Barcelona (CEB) as the body that has supported and accompanied this project educational. We think that the uniqueness of la Massana lies in sustaining this impulse by making it grow from of the involvement with our present context and with those future ones that are opened from a community committed to the creative and transformative power of the arts, crafts and design.

Thus, the Baccalaureate and the University Degree in Arts and Design integrate a transversal training that gives an answer to both those young students who want to integrate the Artistic Baccalaureate a training in crafts and design, as that student body

interested in reaching a University Degree from a transdisciplinary training. The Higher Education Cycles, the Massana Permanente and the Postgraduate in Applied Arts are given answers, from different formats and levels, to those students who want to focus their learning or develop their specialization in some specific field. With the incorporation of the University Degree studies attached to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Postgraduate studies, the Massana School reaches an important dimension of its project: a single school that welcomes different teaching plans, for any time and age; a school of applied arts, arts and design for all.

From this context and from this concern shared with our students, we appeal to the institutional will to ensure that the crisis generated by SARS-CoV-2 does not have an irreversible impact on the education and learning of an entire generation. As a public and municipal educational centre, we ask Barcelona City Council and the Autonomous University of Barcelona to take a step forward in their commitment to ensuring that arts, crafts and design are indeed accessible to all at all levels of education. We ask for the possibility of establishing a tuition fee comparable to the prices of a public university be considered. Or, at least, in this complicated situation for the students, that some measure of urgency be implemented that will lead to the relief or reduction of the registration fee. A commitment to the public school so that the student body that has made this school its own can continue their itinerary and that those who want to start this path with us have options for doing so.

Signed,