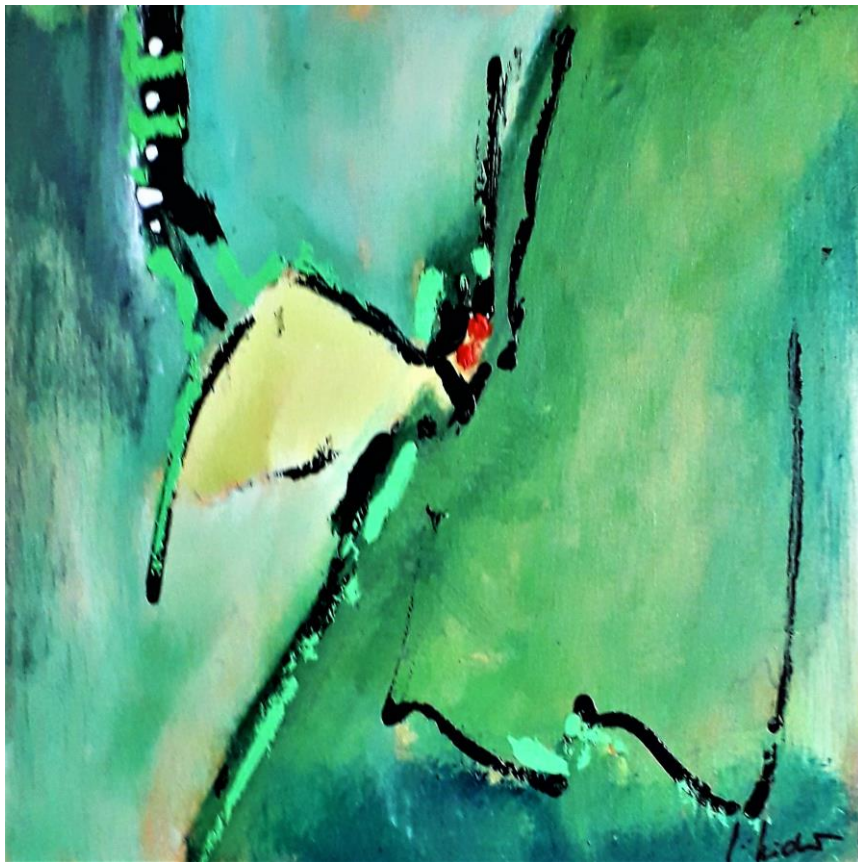


MAY 2022

SILENCE



... and then there it was. Unexpectedly, unforeseen and unplanned.

The great SILENCE fell over the world.

It must have surprised us sometime during the night, at least before three o'clock, the time of the awakening roosters. The neighbour's rooster remained silent like a fish. No matter how long he stretched his neck and opened his beak, there was no sound. Annoyed, he retreated to the chicken house, but he sensed that something terrible was coming.

The nerve-wrecking rutting concert of the tomcats in heat turned into a strange opera, into a mime on the housetop. The farm dog seemed to be resting his voice, and the usual loud farting of the motor scooter of our apprentice boy could not be heard. You could only see the cloud of smoke coming out of the exhaust pipe.

The alarm clock ticked on silently and didn't make any sound at six o'clock sharp. And the weird music and the stupid comments of the radio were missing.

Television, mobile phones, fellow passengers on the bus, the lady in the kiosk and the porter, they all were silent. And even the angry boss kept his mouth shut.

A wonderful world without any aircraft noise, without stupid chatter in the canteen, without music in the loo and supermarket. And it was in the newspapers that at the front even the guns had been silent...

...D-day, the day of total silence...

... or in medical terms 'hearing loss'