

VITORIA KOTSALOU



credits Myrto Apostolidou

Vitoria Kotsalou is a psychologist, and a self trained dancer, performer and choreographer based in Athens. Her eclectic training, not bound by one tradition, and constant research from many different disciplines carve out new fields of engagement for dance immediation. As a choreographer and artist, she operates dance as a way of being, a means of thinking and assimilating the world, and as a field of connection to the intelligence that governs the nature of things.

Vitoria is one of the founding members of the non-profit organization R.I.C.E. and the RSOD Dance School on the island of Hydra. She is a close collaborator of choreographer Michael Klien and a member of En Dynamei Ensemble since 2014. As a choreographer she has composed the works Day out of Time (2017), Mount (2019), Rite of Spring - A Map (2021), Solar (With En Dynamei Ensemble-2023), Bare (2023). As a dancer she has made important collaborations with Androniki Marathaki, Mariella Nestora and Agni Papadeli Rossetou. She teaches dance to children, adults and mixed ability groups, and also choreographs theatre performances.

Vitoria approaches dance as a phenomena of life, that has the potential to touch all socio-political aspects of society. Her passion, belief and experience in the possibility of dance a force, which enables different ways of being, communicating and forming relationships, expands to thinking through movement and coming into contact with an intelligence that exists in (and connects) all living organisms. Drawing inspiration from the study of different artistic practices, philosophical approaches and collaborations, her thinking extends to social choreography through which she simultaneously observes the world and designs works that convey the possibility of changing or expanding the way it is perceived.



R.I.C.E._Artistic Direction/ Production

www.riceonhydra.org

For an interview about R.I.C.E. please visit:

<http://webtv.ert.gr/ert3/enallaktika-art-o-piimata/07ian2018-enallaktika-art-o-piimata/>

Rice is a cultural initiative on Hydra Island that explores the notion of choreography and dance practices and re evaluates the patterns of creation, practice and artistic production, education and the meaning of dance today. RICE introduces the notion of social choreography into practice and has hosted more than 400 artists in its yearly editions between 2012-2018.

CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS



BARE

This is a solo.

Out of urgency. About making a refuge to fold into or folding into this place as if it is a refuge. About reaching out to the movements and ways of other forms of existences.

To pull the idea of inside apart.

A dancing myself bare or to bare dance.

BARE emerges from carefully considered/choreographed situations I embedded myself in over the last months: Tact. Sea. Forest. Unhoused. Originally conceived out of urgency to find refuge in sustained awareness, BARE now stretches beyond its bounds. The solo bears resonance as the experiences re-organize and transduce. As this dance rises, so does a new mind, open to changing the way I move, the way I move to think.

“The space of experience is really, literally, physically a topological hyperspace of transformation” B. Massumi

PERFORMANCE IDENTITY:

Date: 2,3,4,5 & 7 & 14 November 2023

Time: 21.00

Duration: 50 minutes

Venue: M54, Menandrou 54, Athens, Greece

Tickets: 10€ regular, 8€ reduced (unemployed, student, disabled)

Tickets available at <https://www.ticketservices.gr/event/bare-m54/?lang=en>

*On Sunday 12 November at 16.00-18.00 pm a discussion on the methodology and research of the project will be hosted, open to anyone interested

**During the BARE solo performance a part of the BARE UNDERWATER video is projected. The complete 40-minute video will be screened twice on Sunday



November 12 at 18.30 and 19.30. The projection is an independent work from the BARE performance.

Research/Choreography/Performance: Vitoria Kotsalou Field 1: Drums

Drums field support & Music composition: Vassilis Mantzoukis

Field 2: The forest north of Montreal, Canada, which hosts the 3e project by Erin Manning and Brian Massumi

Forest field support & support in research and artistic practice: Erin Manning

Field 3: The sea in Hydra, in Agios Dimitrios Evia, in Vlychada Rechia, in Trachila of

Mani Field 4: Homeless people in the area of Menandrou, Thiseio, Piraeus,

Keramikos-Athens

Homeless field Support & Text Editing: George Frintzilas Video design: Chrysanthi Badeka

Lighting design: Maria Athanasopoulou

Support during the process of synthesis: Aris Papadopoulos, George Frintzilas, Erin Manning, Michael Klien, Mariela Nestora, Agni Papadeli Rossetou, Iris Nikolaou

Support in dramaturgy in the final process of the presentation: Christos

Polymenakos Costume Design Support: Ilianna Skoulakis

Communications/Production Assistant: Fay Ioannidou

Sketches: Vitoria Kotsalou

Photography underwater images: Yiannis Issaris

Photography: Myrto Apostolidou Production Management: RICE MAKE

UNDERWATER VIDEO:

Conception, Choreography, Performance: Vitoria Kotsalou

Direction, Underwater Camera Assistant, Editing: Chrysanthi Badeka Underwater Cinematography, Colouring: Yiannis Issaris

Many thanks to Lena Frintzila ,Maria Tsolka and Thanos Oikonomopoulos for their support.

The project BARE is realised with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and with the generous support of the 3e project.

SOLAR_EN DYNAMEI ENSEMBLE_STEGI ONASIS FOUNDATION



A performance of "real" movements and of different bodies. The En Dymeai ensemble takes over the stage through the sheer power of six artists with and without disabilities, along with one question: Must the world be perfect in order to celebrate?

The mixed functionality theater group En Dymeai Ensemble, together with the dancer and choreographer Vitoria Kotsalou, proceed with the creation of a dance project involving six artists with and without disabilities.

A meditation on the things that keep us on our feet, addressing the sublime feeling that the "real" movement of different bodies can convey in a state of transcendence.

"Solar" is air, it's the here-and-now (in other words, the future), it's a feast, the earthly touches that are nothing but accidental. "Solar" is joyful; a sun that can light up everything; something you're doing for the first time.

"Solar" opens up a space for the collective and individual quest for common ground, fostering coexistence and the acceptance of the other, the different, the uncanny, and the incomprehensible. It is a collaborative, hands-on "study" of how acceptance affects our lives, relationships, and happiness – and vice versa.

Drawing material from the thirty members of the En Dymeai Ensemble, we create a score of movement and speech. Building on the specificity of each participant and their diverse perceptions, we create a performance dedicated to existence, an awakening of the deepest life drive.

What is it that allows us to seek, claim, or offer in life?

Each existence has the need to interact, create relationships, move, or connect through a continuous rhythmic process. The world is organized as a complex nervous system with undivided qualities and textures. Every part of this nervous system stretches out toward more life. The world is in constant flux. The world is being created as we speak.

Do you need to live in a perfect world to celebrate it? How do you celebrate a world that is falling apart, fading away, sinking?

*“Solar” by En Dynamei ensemble qualified through the Open Call Onassis Future N.O.W.
2022

ARTISTIC DIRECTION ELENI DIMOPOULOU
CONCEPT VITORIA KOTSALOU
TEXTS CREATION / WRITING EN DYNAMEI ENSEMBLE
CHOREOGRAPHY VITORIA KOTSALOU
MUSIC ANARGYROS DENIOZOS
SET DESIGN RICHARD ANTHONY
LIGHTING DESIGN NYSOS VASSILOPOULOS
TEXT EDITING VITORIA KOTSALOU, SOFIA BLETSOU, ELENI DIMOPOULOU
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER ARIS PAPADOPOULOS
VOICE TRAINING ANNA PANGALOU
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT SOFIA BLETSOU
SOUND DESIGN / AUDIO EDITING TANYA JONES
ON STAGE
AGAPI THEODORIDOU KOUNINI, STEFANOS LENTZIS, LOXANDRA LOUKAS, SOFIA
BLETSOU, MICHALIS DOLOPOULOS, CHRISTOS SIOUMIS

WITH THE VOICES OF
MARIA DACHLYTHRA, ELENI DIMOPOULOS, MARGARITA KAINADA, THEANO KONTA,
NIKOS KYPARISSIS, DIMITRIS LYRAS, THANOS NANASIS, PANOS MATZIRIS,
GIORGOS-ZISIS BILIONIS, THEANO PAPAVALASILEIOU, HARIS SERDARI
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
SIAMAK ETEMADI, LAURA ANNA LUCAS, MIRANDA TERZOPOULOU, GUY
STEFANOU, GEORGE FRINTZILAS, MYRTO APOSTOLIDOU, MICHAEL KLIEN, STEVE
VALK, MICHALIS KOKOLIADIS

PRODUCED BY ONASSIS STEGI

RITE OF SPRING-A MAP (2021)

Fragments of images, forces, stories, rhythms and prayers that form a reflection of the original "The Rite of Spring".

What does ritual mean, what does spring mean, what does it mean today?

The work questions what kind of "ritual" could guide us into a "spring" of the way we think, exist, and consequently the way we live and create life. If we are the expression and source of nature, and if our body is the passage for the awakening of our perception, then what has to be sacrificed to stay in touch?

The work proposes a vision and consideration of dance as a path for awakening and connection with the knowledge of nature. Humans are born with the ability to connect with all living things (including themselves) and the ability to disconnect. They learn from each other to support patterns that bring more connection or disconnection.

Our attention can only take fragments of what is really happening, it can only be connected from the side from which it receives, and an overall perception of things is not possible if we are not connected to a greater whole. Things are constantly moving and shaping in relation to each other - so man cannot be complete, nothing in itself is complete.

Conception / Choreography: Vitoria Kotsalou
Original Music Composition: Anargyros Deniozos

Dramaturgy: Myrto Apostolidou

Performers:

Richard Anthony, Vitoria Kotsalou, Loxandra Loukas, George Zisis Billionis, Sofia Bletsou, Michalis Dolopoulos, Ionas Economopoulos, Agni Papadeli, George Frinzilas, Vasiliki Tsagari Chrysanthakopoulou

Communication: Fay Ioannidou
Production-organization: RICE AMKE



<https://www.facebook.com/dance.riteofspring>

<https://www.monopoli.gr/2021/06/01/showtimes/theatre/479355/ierotelestia-tis-anoiksis-enas-xartis-tis-vitoria-kotsalou-sto-alsos-petralonon/>

<https://www.debop.gr/events/ierotelestia-tis-anoiksis-enas-xartis-o-xoros-os-noimosyni?fbclid=IwAR0eqqUqdPhn6INHbYTBI9ymeXbPPHhOwJYeyvBiagCMFBRxWeUu1EIOaNg>

MOUNT (2019)

A work out of dance, mountain and clay,
Which includes a performance, an installation and workshops for children and adults.

MOUNT proposes a dimension where choreography creates space and time for the public to engage with the work, offering a different quality of coexistence.

Performance 26,27,28/9/2019

Installation 29,30 / 09 & 1,2/10/2019

Workshops 3-10 / 10/2019



Performance

The doors of the former car workshop on 97 Falirou Street in Koukaki open to the public, who are invited to witness the process of the creation of a clay mountain sculpture, by a diverse group of artists. Dance co-exists with sculpture as the rhythm is involved with the changes of light in the duration of a day. Formation and movement are viewed as a unified and continuous process of mind that permeates and simultaneously creates our body, our relationships and environment.

Concept, Creation, Production: Vitoria Kotsalou

Choreography: Vitoria Kotsalou in collaboration with the group

Performers:

George Amentas
George Vittos
Giannis Kavalaris
Lia Karabella
Androniki Marathaki
Agni Papadeli-Rossetou
Tsangari Chrysanthakopoulou Basiliki
Christos Christakopoulos
Theodora Chorafa

Music

26/9 Nikos Katritzidakis, Joe Tornabene
27/9 Nikos Katritzidakis, Leonardo Batis
28/9 Nikos Katritzidakis

Project Consultant: Giannis Kavalaris

Architectural Design / Curator: Iosif Efremidis

Organization Assistant: Marianna Kapsimali

Communication: Fai Ioannidou

Photos: Myrto Apostolidou

26, 27, 28 September 2019 // Hours: 17.00-20.00 DAY OUT OF TIME, Athens Festival 2017

For an interview on MOUNT please visit

https://www.artandpress.gr/portal/synentefkseis/thavmata-themata/kotsalou-mesa-apo-to-paixnidi-metakinoyme-ta-oria-mas-vriskoume-tropous-na-yparxoume-zontanoi-sto-paron-pou-vionoume?fbclid=IwAR2dFAK-8-ONEts2fxVI6Ob_4pEDwBM8HfBJdt-gWSi-wvMTx5eom84dsgw

VIDEO LINK

<https://vimeo.com/manage/370719734/general>

DAY OUT OF TIME, (2017)_Athens Festival

A performative practice for dancers, from sunrise to sundown. Dancers dedicate the day to being in the state of dance, individually, in a chosen public location.

This practice originated as a personal need, as a way of seeking and testing the perception of dance on a personal, social, and cosmic level. An act dedicated to the union of dance and life, an opportunity for tracing the poetry that exists both inside us and around us. A dialogue with limits and nature, calling into question the various ways in which dance emerges.

The body in dance opens out a multiplicity of meaning – its generosity offers a different kind of awareness. The dancer is within the action of her own practice inscribing new possibilities of presence. As with the qualities of ‘a gift’ the dancer demands nothing, seeks not to gain praise, but makes an embodied offer that generates reflection. This reflection implicates the body and presence of the spectator / passerby, the landscape and the wider

context of movement we are contained in.

The audience is invited to visit the dancer throughout the whole day, and stay with her for however long they wish, witnessing the event.

'Day Out of Time' has been performed by more than 80 dancers in the past four years, on numerous locations and events, including the Athens Festival in 2017.

Video and media links:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/291850370>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsbR7RA2FNw>

<http://popaganda.gr/319765-2/> <http://greekfestival.gr/en/events/view/vitoria-kotsalou-2017>

<http://www.ert.gr/radiotileorasi/politismos-radiotileorasi/technes-radiotileorasi/day-time-21-choreftes-se-dimosious-chorous-tis-athinas/>

<http://www.tanea.gr/people/article/5454586/xoros-se-plateies-kai-stoes/>



DAY OUT OF TIME, La Caldera,2018

<http://www.lacaldera.info/pages/view/day-out-of-time-vitoria-kotsalou?lang=cat>

STREET HORIZONS, Piraeus State Theatre in collaboration with Athens Festival, 2017

In collaboration with V. Valkanioti, a social choreography which involved 60 people from 7 different institutions of Piraeus (music school, amea, homeless center, musicians, traditional dance groups, immigrants etc) into a two hour street

performance. The audience walked the mapped route between the train station and the Piraeus State Theatre, observing the choreographies that unfolded by this diverse group of people at different locations of the route .The walk ended with a freedom dance in the square of the theatre.

<https://www.dithepi.gr/el/events/4501/>

VIDEO DANCE PIECES

Video links:

<https://vimeo.com/258967838>

<http://www.pocko.com/vitoria-kotsalou-3/>

<https://vimeo.com/123258522>

PARTICIPATION AS A PERFORMER

The Garden, Agni Papadeli Rossetou, Athens 2022-2023

Interesse, Mariela Nestora, **Moving Ground Project**, Duncan Dance Center 2022

Amendment, Michael Klien, Hydra 2021

ZOOM IN!, Duncan Dance Center, 2019

Peru Peru Myrto Apostolidou, 2018, Teatro Tehnis

Hi Jack Androniki Marathaki, 2018, Onassis Cultrual Center

This is it nothing else but this Mariela Nestora, Athens Festival 2016

Madeeh Michael Klien, Decaf Festival, Egypt, 2016

Jerusalem Michael Klien Athens Festival, 2014

Air Vitoria Kotsalou, Vasiliki Tzagari and Alexis Porfyriadis, Music in Motion Festival 2015, and Acropoditi dance festival 2015

Parliament, Michael Klien, Benaki Museum 2014

The Wave Vitoria Kotsalou, Vasiliki Tzagari, Lia Vasdari, performed in public spaces 2014-2016

The stray Dogs, Dina Kafternani, performed in bars, concerts and public spaces 2012-2014

Milalia Vitoria Kotsalou, Chrysanthi Badeka performed in public spaces 2012

Origin Vitoria Kotsalou, Greek Choreographers Festival Athens 2011, and Arts Rondel Festival, Holland 2011

Kukubayan Circus in streets, squares and festivals 2010-2011

ANASA African dance performances, 2010-2012

PRODUCTION / ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

'The Utopians' En Dynamei/Michael Klien, Athens Festival 2023

Duncan Dance Center, Moving Ground, Curatorial Team/Project Management,, 2022

EnDynamei Ensemble/Michael Klien, 'The Utopians', 2022-2023

Agni Papadeli Rossetou, 'A Calm Ocean' , MIR festival 2021

Androniki Marathaki, 'It's not about if you will love me tomorrow Part 1', 2019

Ricean School of Dance, Hydra, 2015-2018

Winterice 2015-First Aid Kits delivered to refugees in Hios through RICE fundraising

Jerusalem, M. Klien, Athens Festival 2014

Parliament, M.Klien, Benaki Museum 2014

Hydra Small Dance Festival, Hydra 2012

Educational program 'Animals Lawsuit' for children 6-12 years old, Goulandri Museum 2008

Agoni Grammi Gonimi 2007, 2008 production/organization

CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Gutuwapatu, En Dynamei, 2021

Old stories that today are nonsense, Stavros Stangos, 2021

Pacific, A.Papadeli, 2021

Its not about if you will love me tomorrow, A.Marathaki 2019

Horses in Love, En Dynamei, mixed ability group, Athens Festival 2019

Momo M. Ende, E.Efthymiou, National Theatre, 2017

The call of the Wild, T. London, E.Efthymiou, Onasis Cultural Center, 2016

Antigoni, Z.Anouig, E. Efthymiou, Athens Festival, 2016

The Other House, En Dynamei, mixed ability group, Dimitria Thessaloniki 2016, Onassis Cultural Center 2016.

The little Prince, D.Gliati, Pti Palai Theatre, 2011

TEACHING

Aktina Dance School 2019-2021 Improvisation workshop for second year dance students

Kalamata Dance Festival 2018 and 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 Dance Performance workshop and creation for children aged 3-16

“Listen”, improvisation workshops and classes, Athens 2017-2021

Teaching Creative Dance for children 3-12 years of age at Mikres Istories 2014-2016, Ftero 2017-2018, at summer camps. and independent dance studios since 2008.

Acropoditi Dance Festival ‘Music and Movement’ 2016

Acropoditi Dance Festival, ‘Day out of Time-workshop’ 2015,2016

Improvisation Classes for adults in numerous studios in Athens since

2011 Mixed Ability groups in Athens and Thessaloniki

Workshops on how to cultivate dance in the classroom for educators, Rodakino 2017-2018

Propositions to Dance Differently in collaboration with M. Klien, Dimiria 2014

COLLABORATIVE WORKS

Crater

<https://www.facebook.com/Κρατήρας-100991678288539>

Athens, 2020 in collaboration with a large team of artists.

A practice which was introduced by Vitoria to a team of dancers and artists right after the lockdown in Athens, in the spring of 2020.

a hole in the ground, a body ready to explode, a container



AN ACTIVE RELAY OF PRESENCE, WHERE A DANCER FOLLOWS THE PREVIOUS <HOLDING THE DANCE<IN A CHOSEN PUBLIC LOCATION. DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT FOR A SELECTED NUMBER OF DAYS.

The Crater is a practice that functions as a means of communication and networking, as an answer, as a means of investigation of the present moment: in between artists from all fields of art, in between man and the imprint he leaves, in between the situation we are in and the way we stand and hold our selves. A way to be present.

From 15/5/2020 at 6.00 am until 30/5/2020 at 12.00 am, during the day and night, in Syntagma square, one artist succeeded the next as a in a relay, each following a simple and specific score (instruction). Each in turn - an active presence, an active person / 'dancer' / citizen.

Keeping the candle lit, presence with no excuses, no objects or subjects. The body and its existence.

Anyone who enters the crater concentrates on the score for the hour they are there. The Crater may become a means of excavating confrontational / countless questions, a living transmitter for the days to come. Who we are, what art serves, what we need to live.

It is not a performance or a demonstration, but a practice that cultivates political thought, networking and communication.

The Crater is an independent artistic activity that invites the support and participation of artists from all fields of art, ages and experiences.